

ORIGINAL

**IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
HAMILTON COUNTY, OHIO
CIVIL DIVISION**

PATRICK & SHELLY SCHMIT
2778 Tolbert Rd.
Hamilton, OH 45011

Plaintiffs,

v.

ABUBAKAR ATIQ DURRANI, M.D.
PAKISTAN
(Serve via Hague Convention)

And

**CENTER FOR ADVANCED SPINE
TECHNOLOGIES, INC.**
(Serve via Hague Convention)

And

JOURNEY LITE OF CINCINNATI, LLC:
10475 READING RD., SUITE 115
CINCINNATI, OH 45241

Serve: CT CORPORATION
1300 EAST 9TH STREET
CLEVELAND, OH 44114
(Serve via Certified Mail)

Defendants.

Case No.

Judge:

A 1506162

**COMPLAINT
& JURY DEMAND**

**(ALL NEW DR. DURRANI
CASES SHALL GO TO
JUDGE RUEHLMAN PER
HIS ORDER)**

REGULAR MAIL WAIVER

FILED
2015 NOV 12 A 9:51
CLERK OF COURT
HAMILTON COUNTY, OH

Come now Plaintiffs, Patrick and Shelly Schmit, and file this Complaint and Jury

Demand, stating as follows:

1. At all times relevant, Plaintiffs ("Plaintiff" or "Plaintiffs" of "Mr. Schmit") were married and were residents of and domiciled in the State of Ohio.
2. At all times relevant, Defendant Dr. Abubakar Atiq Durrani ("Dr. Durrani") was



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licensed to and did in fact practice medicine in the State of Ohio.

3. At all times relevant, Center for Advanced Spine Technologies, Inc. ("CAST") was licensed to and did in fact perform medical services in the state of Ohio, and was and is a corporation authorized to transact business in the state of Ohio.
4. At all times relevant, Journey Lite, LLC ("Journey Lite") was a limited liability company authorized to transact business and perform medical services in the state of Ohio.
5. At all times relevant, Journey Lite held itself out to the public, and specifically to Plaintiffs, as a hospital providing competent and qualified medical nursing services, care, and treatment by and through its physicians, physicians in training, residents, nurses, agents, ostensible agents, servants and/or employees.
6. The subject matter of the Complaint arises out of medical treatment by the Defendants in Hamilton County, Ohio. This Court is thus the proper venue to grant Plaintiffs the relief they seek.
7. This case has been previously 41(A) voluntarily dismissed and now is being re-filed.

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS OF PLAINTIFF

8. Around the summer of 2012, Plaintiff visited his primary physician for low back pain.
9. His primary care physician referred him to a neurosurgeon; the neurosurgeon stated that there was no indication of surgery needed, and later referred Plaintiff to Dr. Durrani.
10. Plaintiff had his initial office visit with Dr. Durrani at CAST.
11. Dr. Durrani told Plaintiff he needed a lumbar spinal fusion.

12. Dr. Durrani operated on Plaintiff on August 31, 2012, at Journey Lite.

Specifically, Dr. Durrani performed a hemilaminotomy and foraminotomy at L5-S1.

13. Upon information and belief, during this surgery, Dr. Durrani used Infuse/BMP-2 and/or Puregen, without Mrs. Jone's knowledge or consent, causing Ms. Jones harm.

14. The use of BMP-2 increases a person's chance of cancer by 3.5%

15. Due to the unnecessary surgeries Dr. Durrani performed, Plaintiff has a 3.5% increased chance of cancer because of the use of BMP-2.

16. As a direct and proximate result of the use and implementation of Infuse/BMP-2 Plaintiff has incurred a 3.5% increase in the risk of Cancer. As a result Plaintiff has an increased fear of Cancer.

17. After surgery, Plaintiff had follow-up appointments with Dr. Durrani at CAST and Journey Lite, Plaintiff received physical therapy, epidural steroid injections, and used a nerve stimulator

18. Plaintiff continued treatment with Dr. Durrani at CAST nad Journey Lite until May 23, 2013, when Dr. Durrani recommended Plaintiff undergo another spinal fusion with him.

19. Since treating with Dr. Durrani, Plaintiff has followed up with doctors at the Kettering Health Network in Dayton, Ohio, who suggested to Plaintiff that the surgery Dr. Durrani performed was unnecessary.

20. Plaintiff did not become aware of Dr. Durrani's use of Infuse/BMP-2 or PureGen until she contacted her undersigned counsel.

21. Since surgery with Dr. Durrani, Plaintiff is in constant pain, he lives on a farm, and raises and trains horses, which he now has great difficulty doing and can no longer

ride anymore.

22. Plaintiff had to hire someone to cut his grass, he formerly coached his son's sports teams, performed housework, and vehicle maintenance- and now he cannot do those activities.

23. Upon information and belief, the surgeries performed by Dr. Durrani were medically unnecessary and/or improperly performed.

24. As a direct and proximate result of Dr. Durrani's negligence and the Defendants negligence Plaintiff has suffered harm.

**MORE SPECIFIC ALLEGATIONS BASED UPON DISCOVERY AND
DEPOSITION TESTIMONY**

25. This information is to demonstrate the overall negligence and inappropriate actions of Dr. Durrani and the hospitals he worked with and/or for and/or in an individual capacity.

26. Krissy Probst was Dr. Durrani's professional and personal assistant handling professional, academic, travel, surgery scheduling, his journals, his Boards, his credentialing, his personal affairs and his bills.

27. Krissy Probst worked as Dr. Durrani's assistant for three years at Children's Hospital from 2006, 2007, and 2008.

28. Krissy Probst reported Dr. Durrani to Sandy Singleton, the Business Director at Children's for his having an affair with Jamie Moor, his physician assistant.

29. Krissy Probst resigned in 2008 from Dr. Durrani and remained working for three other surgeons in the Orthopedic Department.

30. Krissy Probst worked in the Orthopedic Department for eleven years from 2002-2013. She retired in May, 2013.
31. Krissy Probst confirmed Dr. Durrani claims being a Prince, when he is not.
32. According to Krissy Probst, Dr. Crawford, an icon in pediatric orthopedics treated Dr. Durrani "like a son."
33. According to Krissy Probst, Dr. Crawford, Chief of Orthopedics at Children's unconditionally supported Dr. Durrani no matter the issues and problems Dr. Durrani faced.
34. Dr. Durrani's patient care at Children's Hospital dropped off considerably after Jamie Moor became his physician assistant and they began their affair.
35. Dr. Durrani was the only orthopedic spine surgeon at Children's who would perform a dangerous high volume of surgeries.
36. At Children's, Dr. Durrani would begin a surgery, leave and have fellows and residents complete a surgery or do the full surgery while he was in his office with Jamie Moor, his physician assistant for four or five hours.
37. Children's Board and administration knew about Dr. Durrani doing too many surgeries and not properly doing the surgeries. They did nothing.
38. Dr. Durrani argued to Children's administration when they complained to him that he made them money so Children's tolerated him and allowed him to do what he wanted.
39. Dr. Durrani, when told by Children's that Jamie Moor had to leave, told Children's that he would leave too.

40. Dr. Agabagi would do one spine patient a day at Children's because it takes normally eight hours for a full fusion.
41. Dr. Durrani would schedule two to three spine surgeries a day at Children's.
42. Dr. Durrani would repeatedly have the Business Director, Sandy Singleton, or OR Director allow him to add surgeries claiming they were emergencies when they were not.
43. Dr. Durrani would leave a spine surgery patient for four or five hours in the surgery suite under the care of fellows or residents, unsupervised and sit in his office and check on the surgery as he pleased.
44. Dr. Peter Stern did not like Dr. Durrani while Dr. Durrani was at Children's because he knew all about his patient safety risk issues. Yet, Dr. Stern supported, aided and abetted Dr. Durrani's arrival at West Chester. It defies comprehension, but was for one of the world's oldest motives—greed of money.
45. There is also a Dr. Peter Sturm, an orthopedic at Children's who also had no use for Dr. Durrani.
46. Dr. Durrani chose his own codes for Children's billing which he manipulated with the full knowledge of Children's Board and management.
47. Dr. Durrani was dating and living with Beth Garrett, a nursing school drop-out, with the full knowledge of his wife Shazia.
48. Dr. Durrani was close with David Rattigan until David Rattigan pursued Jamie Moor and Dr. Durrani would not allow David Rattigan in the OR at Children's for a long time.
49. Dr. Durrani, while claiming to have riches, does not. Dr. Durrani's wife's family paid for Dr. Durrani's education and it is her family with the significant wealth.

50. Medtronic paid for Dr. Durrani's trips and paid him \$10,000 fees for speaking or simply showing up at a spine conference.

51. Krissy Probst's business director told her to save all Dr. Durrani related documents and information and she did.

52. While doing research at Children's, Dr. Durrani would misstate facts regarding his research. Children's knew he did this.

53. Dr. Durrani ended on such bad terms with Children's Hospital he was not allowed on the premises after his departure in December 2008, yet he performed a spine surgery there in February 2009.

54. Eric J. Wall, MD was the Director of Surgical Services Division of Pediatric Orthopedic Surgery when Dr. Durrani left Children's.

55. Sandy Singleton, MBA was the Senior Business Director of Surgical Services Division of Pediatric Orthopedic Surgery when Dr. Durrani left Children's.

56. On information and belief, Dr. Durrani used his relationships with Children's officials to purge his Children's file of all patient safety and legal issues which had occurred as part of his departure "deal" which Defendants hide with privilege.

INFUSE/BMP-2

I. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

57. The Deters Law Firm, P.S.C., represents approximately 500 Plaintiffs in medical malpractice actions against a former Northern Kentucky/Cincinnati-area spine surgeon named Abubakar Atiq Dr. Durrani (Dr. Durrani), his company, Center for Advanced Spine Technologies, Inc. (CAST), and several area hospitals including, but not limited to, West Chester Hospital (WCH), University of Cincinnati Health (UC Health), Cincinnati

Children's Hospital Medical Center (CCHMC), Christ Hospital, Deaconess Hospital, Good Samaritan Hospital and Journey Lite of Cincinnati, LLC (Journey Lite) (collectively Hospitals).

58. Dr. Durrani performed unnecessary, fraudulent, dangerous, and ultimately damaging surgeries on these Plaintiffs while working for and with these Hospitals.

59. The scheme and artifice to defraud that Dr. Durrani devised, executed, and attempted to execute while working for and with the Hospitals included the following patterns and practices:

- a. Dr. Durrani persuaded the patient that surgery was the only option, when in fact the patient did not need surgery.
- b. Dr. Durrani told the patient that the medical situation was urgent and required immediate surgery. He also falsely told the patient that he/she was at risk of grave injuries without the surgery.
- c. Dr. Durrani often told his cervical spine patients that they risked paralysis or that his/her head would fall off if he/she was involved in a car accident, ostensibly because there was almost nothing attaching the head to the patient's body.
- d. Dr. Durrani often ordered imaging studies such as x-rays, CT scans, or MRIs for patients but either did not read or ignored the resulting radiology reports.
- e. Dr. Durrani often provided his own exaggerated and dire reading of the patient's imaging study that was either inconsistent with or was plainly

contradicted by the radiologist's report. At times, Dr. Durrani provided a false reading of the imaging.

- f. Dr. Durrani often dictated that he had performed certain physical examinations and procedures on patients that he did not actually perform.
- g. Dr. Durrani often ordered a pain injection for a level of the spine that was inconsistent with the pain stated by the patient or with that indicated by the imaging. Dr. Durrani also scheduled patients for surgeries without learning of or waiting for the results of certain pain injections or related therapies.
- h. Dr. Durrani often dictated his operative reports or other patient records months after the actual treatment had occurred.
- i. Dr. Durrani's operative reports and treatment records contained false statements about the patient's diagnosis, the procedure performed, and the instrumentation used in the procedure.
- j. When a patient experienced complications resulting from the surgery, Dr. Durrani at times failed to inform the patient of, or misrepresented the nature of, the complications.
- k. All of the above-mentioned actions were done with the knowledge, cooperation, or intentional ignorance of the Hospitals because Dr. Durrani was one of the biggest moneymakers for the Hospitals.

60. In addition to the civil medical malpractice actions against Dr. Durrani, on August 7, 2013, he was indicted by the Federal Government for performing unnecessary surgeries and for defrauding the Medicare and Medicaid programs. Specifically, the ten-count complaint charged Dr. Durrani with health care fraud, in violation of 18 U.S.C. §

1347, and making false statements in health care matters, in violation of 18 U.S.C. §

1035. There was a subsequent superseding indictment adding over 30 counts.

61. Following these criminal indictments, in December of 2013 and prior to the first Plaintiff's trial in these actions, Dr. Durrani fled the United States and returned to Pakistan. He has not returned to the United States to face allegations of either criminal or civil liability.

62. Among Dr. Durrani's and the Hospitals' professional failings was the use of a synthetic bone-morphogenetic protein called BMP-2, which was marketed under the trade name "Infuse." Dr. Durrani used BMP-2/Infuse in ways that were either not approved by the federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA) or that were specifically contraindicated as noted on the FDA-approved product labeling. The Defendants had full knowledge of this fact.

63. BMP-2/Infuse was, at the time of the surgeries in question, and currently still is manufactured by a company called Medtronic, Inc. (Medtronic).

64. Dr. Durrani predominantly used BMP-2/Infuse on patients at WCH, which is owned by UC Health.

65. It is Plaintiffs' position that this non-FDA-approved use of BMP-2/Infuse was not only negligent, and fraudulent, but criminal based upon the manner in which it was allowed to be used by Dr. Durrani at West Chester, all with the knowledge and full support of the Defendants.

II. THE PLAYERS REGARDING BMP-2

66. Dr. Durrani is a citizen of the Republic of Pakistan and was a permanent resident of the United States who, from approximately 2005 to 2013, worked as a spine surgeon in

and around Cincinnati, Ohio, until he fled the United States to escape civil liability and criminal prosecution.

67. Medtronic is an Irish corporation, with its principal executive office located in Dublin, Ireland, and its operational headquarters located in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Medtronic is the world's third largest medical device company and manufactures and markets BMP-2/Infuse. Medtronic sales representatives were also present during the experimental surgeries performed on Plaintiffs, who are clients of the Deters Law Firm.

68. CAST was a corporation organized under the laws of Ohio and had business and medical offices in Florence, Kentucky and Evendale, Ohio. CAST was owned, in whole or in part, by Dr. Durrani.

69. Bahler Medical, Inc. is a manufacturer of medical implants and is a corporation located in the state of Ohio.

70. David Rattigan is an Ohio resident and was and is a sales representative for Medtronic. Further, he is affiliated with Bahler Medical, Inc., was involved in many of the transactions involving BMP-2, and was present for the experimental surgeries in which BMP-2 was used.

71. West Chester Hospital, LLC is a corporation organized under the laws of Ohio. It provides medical facilities and billing support to physicians, including Dr. Durrani, in the state of Ohio. WCH is owned by UC Health.

72. UC Health is a private, non-profit corporation organized under the laws of Ohio. It provides medical facilities, management, administrative, ancillary, and billing support to physicians, and it owns WCH.

73. CCHMC is a medical facility in Ohio where Dr. Durrani was an employee until approximately 2008.

III. WHAT IS BMP-2/INFUSE?

74. The full name of BMP-2 is “Recombinant Human Morphogenetic Protein-2” (also called rhBMP-2). The following definitions apply:

- a. Recombinant – Artificially created in a lab;
- b. Morphogenetic – Evolutionary development of an organism;
- c. Protein – Essential for growth and repair of tissue.

75. Recombinant human protein (rhBMP-2) is currently available for orthopedic usage in the United States.

76. Medtronic manufactured, marketed, sold, and distributed BMP-2 under the trade name “Infuse.”

77. BMP-2 has been shown to stimulate the production of bone.

78. Implantation of BMP-2 in a collagen sponge induces new bone formation and can be used for the treatment of bony defects, delayed union, and non-union.

BMP-2 AS A BIOLOGIC

79. BMP-2 is not a device, but instead it is a biologic. *See* July 2009 American Medical Association Article and 2011 Stanford School of Medicine Article.

80. According to the FDA, “[a] ‘biological product’ means a virus, therapeutic serum, toxin, antitoxin, vaccine, blood, blood component or derivative, allergenic product, or analogous product, or arsphenamine or derivative of arsphenamine (or any other trivalent organic arsenic compound), applicable to the prevention, treatment, or cure of a disease or

condition of human beings (Public Health Service ActSec.351(i)1.”Available <http://www.fda.gov/ICECI/Inspections/IOM/ucm122535.htm>.

81. BMP-2 is a Bone-Morphogenetic Protein that is used to promote bone creation and remodeling and falls under the definition of a biologic. *See* AMA article (“bone forming properties”) and Stanford Article. BMP-2 differs from a medical device in that once implanted, it can only be removed days after surgery. If a patient had a complication due to BMP-2 and did not discover this complication until year after surgery, the patient could not have BMP-2 removed to reduce the complication because BMP-2 is so integrated into the patient’s bone.

82. A patient has a right to determine what happens to his or her body and the preservation of that right requires that the patient be informed when a bone growth product, that causes irreversible harm, is placed in his or her body.

WHEN IS IT USED?

83. Recombinant human BMPs are used in orthopedic applications such as spinal fusions, non-unions, and oral surgery.

84. The bone graft contains two parts. The first is a solution of human bone growth protein or morphogenetic protein-2. This protein is found in the human body in small dosages and is important for the healing and formation of bones. The protein is genetically engineered to be utilized in the Infuse Bone Graft product, and it is employed for the *stimulation of formation and growth in bones*.

85. The second part of the bone graft is an absorbable collagen sponge.

86. Both components of the Infuse Bone Graft structure are used to fill the LT-Cage Lumbar Tapered Fusion Device. This chamber is intended to restore the deteriorated disc space to its original height.

87. FDA-approved use for the Infuse Bone Graft product is only for lower back surgery using an anterior lumbar interbody fusion (ALIF), a technique where the operation on the spine is conducted through the abdomen.

88. In addition, the Infuse Bone Graft product must be used in conjunction with Medtronic's LT-Cage. Use of BMP-2 without the LT-Cage is considered an "off-label" use.

CONTRAINDICATIONS OF USE

89. The FDA specifically warns against the use of Infuse in the cervical spine, citing reports of "life-threatening complications."

90. Any use of Infuse other than in lumbar spine surgeries with the LT-Cage is considered "off-label" use

91. Infuse should never be used on the skeletally immature patient, i.e., in patients less than 18 years of age or those with no radiographic evidence of epiphyseal closure.

92. Infuse should never be used in the vicinity of a resected or extant tumor.

93. Infuse should never be used in those patients known to have active infection at the surgical site.

RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH OFF-LABEL USE

94. When used in an off-label manner, patients may experience problems with pregnancy, including but not limited to: complications in fetal development; allergic reactions to titanium, bovine type I collagen, or bone morphogenetic protein-2; infection; the creation or intensification of tumors; liver or kidney disease; lupus or human immunodeficiency virus (HIV/AIDS); problems with radiation, chemotherapy, or steroids if a patient is malignant; paralysis; bowel and/or bladder dysfunctions; sexual disorders,

including sterilization and incompetence; respiratory failure; excessive bleeding, and; death.

IV. THE REGULATORY PROCESS

95. The Medical Device Amendments (MDA) to the federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, 21 U.S.C. § 301 et seq., established two separate approval processes for medical devices: Pre-Market Approval (PMA) and Pre-Market Notification.¹

96. The FDA's PMA process is lengthy and involves extensive investigation by the FDA. The PMA application requires manufacturers to submit extensive animal and human data to establish their devices' safety and effectiveness. 21 C.F.R. § 814.20. Frequently, an experimental program under close FDA scrutiny must be successfully completed before FDA approval can be obtained under this process. FDA regulations also require PMA applicants to submit copies of all proposed labeling for the device. 21 C.F.R. § 814.20(b)(10). The FDA approves a PMA application only after extensive review by the agency and an advisory committee composed of outside experts. 21 C.F.R. § 814.40.²

97. In contrast, the FDA's Pre-Market Notification process is more abbreviated and involves less FDA oversight. This process requires applicants to submit descriptions of their devices and other information necessary for the agency to determine whether the devices are substantially equivalent. Pre-Market Notification applicants must also submit their proposed labeling. 21 C.F.R. § 807.87. If the FDA determines that a device is substantially equivalent to a device that was on the market prior to the enactment of the MDA in 1976, the applicant is free to market the device.

¹ *Fender v. Medtronic*, 887 F.Supp. 1326 fn 1 (E.D. Cal.1995).

² *Fender v. Medtronic*, 887 F.Supp. 1326 fn 1 (E.D. Cal.1995).

98. BMP-2 received PMA (PMA number P000058) for the Infuse/BMP-2 Lumbar Tapered Fusion Device, which PMA provided for limited use with specific requirements for its use on individuals. See Medtronic Package Insert.

SCOPE OF THE PMA AND PRODUCT LABELING

99. The PMA for BMP-2 provided that the product may only be used in patients with the following characteristics:

- d. Skeletally mature patient, AND
- e. At levels L2-S1, AND
- f. Confirmed degenerative disc disease (DDD), AND
- g. Using only an open anterior or anterior laparoscopic approach, AND³
- h. Six months of non-operative treatment prior to treatment with the device, AND
- i. In combination with the metallic LT-CAGE.⁴

See Medtronic Package Insert, "INDICATIONS."

100. According to Medtronic's package insert for BMP-2/Infuse as well as other industry literature, the following risks are associated with the use of BMP-2/Infuse:

- A. Male Sterility
- B. Cancer
- C. Increased progression of cancer

³ The anterior interbody fusion approach was developed because the risk of non-union (pseudarthrosis) is significantly higher in posterior approaches. The biggest risk factor for fusion surgery is non-union.

⁴ Instrumented fusions involve hardware and are more stable fusions with a shorter recovery time than non-instrumented fusions.

- D. Suffocation of the cervical region
- E. Bone fracture
- F. Bowel/bladder problems
- G. Loss of spinal mobility or function
- H. Change in mental status
- I. Damage to blood vessels and cardiovascular system compromise
- J. Excessive bone mass blocking the ability to treat pain
- K. Damage to internal organs and connective tissue
- L. Death
- M. Respiratory problems
- N. Disassembly and migration of components
- O. Dural tears
- P. Ectopic and exuberant bone formation
- Q. Fetal development complications (birth defects)
- R. Foreign body (allergic) reaction
- S. Gastrointestinal complications
- T. Incisional complications
- U. Infection
- V. *Insufflation complications*
- W. Neurological system compromise
- X. Non-union
- Y. Delayed union
- Z. Mal-union

AA. Change in curvature of spine

BB. Retrograde ejaculation

CC. Scars

DD. Tissue and nerve damage

EE. Itching

FF. Pain

GG. Hematoma

HH. Anaphylactic reaction

II. Elevated erythrocyte sedimentation rate

101. Injury Percentages:

j. Ectopic Bone Growth-63%

k. Inflammatory Neuritis-15%

l. Osteolysis/Subsidence-13%

m. Acute Swelling-7%

n. Retrograde Ejaculation-2%

o. 85% of time, BMP-2 implanted in off-label use

102. Not a single one of these risks in the last two paragraphs were ever explained to a single patient at Children's Hospital by Dr. Durrani.

103. BMP-2 was NOT approved by the FDA for use in the cervical and thoracic spine and BMP-2 was NOT safe or approved for use in children less than 21 years of age. These uses are considered "off-label."

“OFF-LABEL” USE

104. A use of a device is considered “off-label” if it is not approved under the Pre-Market Approval process OR cleared for such use pursuant to 21 U.S.C. § 360c(f) (also known as “the 510k premarket notification process”).

105. Infuse can be implanted in an off-label manner in three ways:

- p. Approach/position: Any approach other than an anterior approach;
- q. Product: Failure to use LT-Cage (or any cage); mixing rhBMP-2 with other grafting products like Allograft or Autograft;
- r. Discs: Use on multiple levels or on a level outside of L2-S1.

106. Dr. Durrani and the Hospitals in which he performed surgeries repeatedly used BMP-2 in these non-FDA-approved manners.

THE NON-COMPLIANCE WITH THE REGULATORY PROCESS

107. The PMA 000058 “Conditions of Approval” specifies the following condition: “Before making any change affecting the safety or effectiveness of the device, submit a PMA supplement for review and approval by the FDA ... [a] PMA supplement or alternate submission shall comply with applicable requirements under 21 C.F.R. 814.39[.]”

108. 21 C.F.R. 814.39 requires a PMA supplement pursuant to subsection (a)(1) for new indications of use of the device and pursuant to subsection (a)(6) for changes in components.

109. The PMA 000058 “Conditions of Approval” notes the post-marketing reporting requirement imposed by 21 C.F.R. 814.84, particularly “Identification of changes described in 21 C.F.R. 814.39(a).” Medtronic did not comply with this requirement relating to the intended uses and componentry.

110. The FDA can impose post-approval requirements in the PMA pursuant to 21 C.F.R. 814.82, and this fact results in the device being characterized as “restricted” pursuant to 21 U.S.C. § 360j(e) for purposes of 21 U.S.C. § 352(q). Section 352(q) states that any restricted device that is distributed or offered for sale with false or misleading advertising is “misbranded.”

111. “Indications for use” is a necessary part of the PMA application and the “Indications for use” are required to be limited by the application. Any different use is inconsistent with the PMA.

112. A device that fails to meet the requirements of the PMA or 21 C.F.R. 814 is “adulterated” as defined by 21 U.S.C. § 351(f).

113. 21 C.F.R. 801.6 defines a misleading statement related to a DIFFERENT device contained in the label delivered with the device intended to be used will render the device to be used misbranded.

114. Medtronic did not apply for a PMA supplement, as required by the FDA generally and PMA 000058 specifically, for the off-label uses, nor did it provide warnings of the risks known about the off-label uses. All named Defendants in these cases knew about the occurrences of off-label use.

115. The PMA requires an application prior to marketing for new indicated uses by incorporating the federal requirements and explicitly reciting the text of 21 C.F.R. 814.39 and 814.84 and by specifically stating the range of indicated uses on the PMA.

V. MEDTRONIC

116. In or about 2001, Medtronic began preparing for the launch of two spinal fusion products, PYRAMID and INFUSE (BMP-2), which it projected would enjoy broad application with spinal surgeons and their patients on a nationwide basis.

117. *Medtronic anticipated that both products would initially be limited in application.*

118. Motivated by greed and a desire to gain competitive advantage in the marketplace, Medtronic began a course of conduct designed to broaden the application of both products by end-users. The course of conduct involved fraud, false statements, material misrepresentation, and deceit for the purpose of broadening the sales of these products beyond that which the usual acceptance within the scientific community or regulatory approval would otherwise allow.

119. On or after July 2, 2002, Medtronic received notification that its Pre-Market Approval application for its BMP-2/Infuse bone graft products had been approved by the FDA. However, such approval was limited to the application of the device from the L4 through S1 levels. Further, the approval mandated the conduct of post-approval studies to evaluate the long-term performance of the BMP-2 bone graft and to study the potential side effects and complications such as the promotion of tumors by the bone morphogenetic protein component of BMP-2. Other studies were conducted as well. See “Allegations against Medtronic in the Unsealed Mississippi False Claims Case.”

120. Medtronic engaged in a fraudulent course of conduct designed to maximize its revenues from BMP-2, regardless of whether it would eventually be allowed to remain on the market.

121. One of the physicians Medtronic co-opted into its fraudulent scheme was a Thomas A. Zdeblick, M.D. Dr. Zdeblick was an orthopedic surgeon whose invention, the LT-Cage, was the only approved device to act as the delivery vehicle for BMP-2 into the body.

122. Dr. Zdeblick enjoyed a position within the scientific community as a Key Opinion Leader, and he was both a practicing orthopedic surgeon and professor at the University of Wisconsin.

123. In one of Dr. Zdeblick's first attempts to tout his LT-Cage and rhBMP-2, which would become the active ingredient in the ultimate Infuse/BMP-2 product, he encountered some drawbacks to his goal of promoting his and Medtronic's products, which arose from the policy of certain industry journals, including the journal *Spine*, which followed industry standards before printing peer-reviewed material. See article in the journal *Spine*, published in 2000.

124. Not only were the drawbacks related to industry publishing standards, but the National Consumer Health Information and Health Promotion Act of 1976 enacted certain provisions at 42 U.S.C. § 300u, et seq., whereby the Federal Government had entered the field of medical research publication. Such standards promulgated by the Secretary of the predecessor to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services required that applications for grants and contracts must be subject to "appropriate peer review." See 42 U.S.C. § 300u-1.

125. The drawbacks encountered with the peer-reviewed *Spine* article were as follows:

- a. Attribution that the study was "sponsored by Medtronic Sofamor Danek, Inc.;"

- b. The study was conducted under FDA regulations, and was "...designed as a prospective, multicenter, nonblinded, randomized, and controlled pilot study;" and
- c. It was accompanied by a cautionary comment, or Point of View, which minimized the exuberance and import of the article.

126. In the article, BMP-2 was touted by Zdeblick and the co-authors as the potential realization of a dream of Dr. Marshall Urist, a revered pioneer in the industry and discoverer of BMP, where it closed with the following: "...it is encouraging to note that Marshall Urist's seminal observation made more than 34 years ago may finally come to clinical fruition."

127. In the Point of View, a Dr. John O'Brien of London questioned whether there could be long-term problems associated with the product. He treated Zdeblick's study with caution and pointed out that simple plaster of Paris has achieved the same or similar results more than 50 years prior. He posited that, "[p]erhaps vascularization...fixation procedures are as important as the biochemical composition of the 'filler.'"

128. Vascularization is achieved through removal of the disc material between two vertebral bodies and then the scraping of the surfaces of the vertebral bodies in a fusion procedure; fixation is the process of securing the motion segment through medical hardware. In other, if the alternative proposed by Dr. O'Brien proved to achieve equivalent or better results, Zdeblick and Medtronic's Infuse/BMP-2 products would be useless and unnecessary.

129. Certain efforts would follow in an attempt to alleviate the drawbacks encountered with the 2000 *Spine* journal article.

130. In 2002, Dr. Zdeblick was installed as the sole editor-in-chief of a medical journal known prior to his installation as the *Journal of Spinal Disorders*. Prior to his installation, the journal enjoyed a fourteen year history under the co-editorship of Dr. Dan Spangler and Dr. Tom Ducker. Once installed, Dr. Zdeblick successfully supplanted Drs. Dan Spangler and Tom Ducker and became the sole editor-in-chief, a position which would enable him to have greater control and would aid his participation in the fraudulent scheme.

131. During this same time period, Dr. Zdeblick also enjoyed a position on the associate editorial board of the medical journal *Spine*, the leading publication covering all disciplines relating to the spine.

132. In one of Dr. Zdeblick's actions as editor-in-chief, he set about re-purposing the journal in a way that would aid him in the furtherance of the fraudulent scheme through the streamlining of the publication process.

133. In furtherance of the fraudulent scheme, Dr. Zdeblick re-purposed the journal and renamed it the *Journal of Spinal Disorders and Techniques* (JSDT), announcing that the new journal was "entering a new partnership with *Spine*." As part of this partnership, *Spine* would "continue to function as a broad-based scientific journal" tailored to both clinicians and scientists. However, the *Journal of Spinal Disorders and Techniques* would be directed solely to physicians in clinical practice.

134. Dr. Zdeblick's stated goal was "to provide a forum for up-to-date techniques...", and in furtherance of that goal, Dr. Zdeblick announced that his journal would publish Class II or better clinical articles but would "occasionally accept cutting edge articles with less than one year follow-up." To justify this streamlined process, Dr. Zdeblick claimed as

his goal the ability of his journal “to keep up with the fast pace of progress in the treatment of spinal patients.”

135. Arm-in-arm with Medtronic and others, Dr. Zdeblick would in short order abuse his position of trust as the editor-in-chief of JSDT.

136. In the October 2002 edition, JSDT published an article entitled, “Anterior Lumbar Interbody Fusion using rhBMP-2 with Tapered Interbody Cages.” This article was co-authored by, among others, Curtis A. Dickman, M.D., who was a developer of Medtronic’s PYRAMID plate and who has been paid significant sums by Medtronic through royalty agreements, consulting agreements, and education training and speaking agreements.

137. In addition to his interest in the PYRAMID plate, Dr. Dickman had assisted Medtronic in the approval process for Infuse/BMP-2. As part of the pre-approval hearing process, Dr. Dickman and his Barrow Neurological Associates Group of Phoenix, Arizona had submitted a letter to the meeting of the FDA’s Orthopedics and Rehabilitation Devices Advisory Panel, which met on January 10, 2002. In that letter, Dr. Dickman represented that “approval of BMP would provide a significant advance for patient outcome and satisfaction following spinal fusion.”

138. In the October 2002 issue of JSDT touting the benefits of Infuse/BMP-2, Zdeblick and others failed to disclose their financial ties to Medtronic, though industry standards require such acknowledgement. Not only did Dr. Zdeblick fail to disclose that he profited from each and every surgery which Infuse/BMP-2 was used through rights in the exclusive delivery vehicle, his LT-Cage, but no reference whatsoever to their financial ties to Medtronic was made either by Dr. Zdeblick or Dr. Dickman.

139. For years, the recognized gold standard for spinal bone grafts has been the use of autogenous bone, or bone harvested from the patient's own iliac crest, or hip bone. Medtronic designed to have its Infuse/BMP-2 product supplant autogenous bone as the gold standard in the medical community, and utilized false statements, a fraudulent enterprise and the support of Federal funds to do so.

140. As part and parcel of Medtronic's fraudulent scheme, the October 2002 study was published in Dr. Zdeblick's journal three months after Medtronic received FDA approval for Infuse. As the article shows, it was actually received on March 28, 2002 or after Dr. Zdeblick had accomplished installment as the editor-in-chief, and was accepted by Dr. Zdeblick's journal for publication on July 30, 2002.

141. At the same time Dr. Zdeblick's journal was publishing the initial article on Infuse, Dr. Zdeblick was already finalizing and preparing for subsequent publication a follow-up article to tout Infuse potentially as the new gold standard. A second article, co-authored by Dr. Zdeblick and two other co-authors of the original article, was entitled "Is Infuse Bone Graft Superior to Autograft Bone? An Integrated Analysis of Clinical Trials using the LT-Cage Lumbar Tapered Fusion Device."

142. This second article was published in Vol. 2 of 2003 and once again, there was no mention of Dr. Zdeblick's financial ties to Medtronic.

143. This second article would serve as the second covert advertisement for the Infuse product, and the article states that "the purpose of our analysis was to investigate the potential statistical superiority of Infuse bone graft to autograft..."

144. This second article went on to announce the July 2002 FDA approval of rhBMP-2.

145. This article included as an “acknowledgment” an expression of gratitude to the physicians “who provided patients for this study and to the clinic research group at Medtronic Sofamor Danek for their help in data collection and statistical analyses.” However, the article still failed to advise the medical community that some or all of the authors reaching these conclusions touted as monumental had direct financial interests tied to those conclusions.

146. Rather, the failure to report these clear conflicts of interest on the part of those holding positions of trust both within the medical community and over patients was part of Medtronic’s fraudulent enterprise. However, unchecked by appropriate peer review, Medtronic was able to systematically accomplish their goals.

147. In its 2003 Annual Report, and without recognizing that Zdeblick was being paid by Medtronic, Medtronic cited to Zdeblick’s 2003 as reporting that Infuse “...may become the new gold standard in spinal fusion surgery.”

148. By its 2006 Annual Report, if not earlier, Medtronic had removed all doubt, declaring that after its introduction in 2002, “Infuse Bone Graft quickly became the gold standard for certain types of lumbar fusion.”

149. Medtronic’s fraudulent scheme was successful and resulted in a revenue stream ranging from 700 to 900 million dollars per year.

150. It has been reported that around the same time these stories about Infuse were published, editors at the Spine Journal began receiving complaints from doctors around the country who were pointing out contradictions between papers published by doctors with financial ties to Medtronic and other data involving Infuse complications.’ See *Journal Sentinel* article of John Fauber.

151. Through the use of these sham consulting, royalty and education/training agreements with its physician agents in this fraudulent enterprise, Medtronic has reaped windfalls in the billions of dollars. Medtronic has used this fraudulent enterprise and civil conspiracy to drive its vast profits and enhance its market position beyond that which it would have realized without engaging willfully, knowingly and potentially deliberate, conscious, or reckless indifference in the fraudulent enterprise and fraudulent concealment. See Mississippi case.

152. Defendants had full knowledge of all these facts pertaining to Medtronics.

VI. FDA PUBLIC HEALTH NOTIFICATION

153. On July 1, 2008 the FDA issued a Public Health Notification entitled “Life-Threatening Complications Associated with Recombinant Human Bone Morphogenetic Protein in Cervical Spine Fusion.”

154. This notification was sent to health care practitioners all across the United States warning of the complications associated with BMP-2, specifically when used in the cervical spine.

155. In the notification the FDA stated they received at least 38 reports of complications during the prior four years with the use of BMP-2 in cervical spine fusions.

156. The complications were associated with swelling of the neck and throat areas, which resulted in compression of the airway and/or neurological structures in the neck.

157. Some reports describe difficulty swallowing, breathing or speaking and severe dysphagia following cervical spine fusion using BMP-2 products had also been reported.

158. The notification further stated that, “since the safety and effectiveness of rhBMP for treatment of cervical spine conditions has not been demonstrated, and in light of the

serious adverse events described above, FDA recommends that practitioners either use approved alternative treatments or consider enrolling as investigators in approved clinical studies.

159. The Notification further emphasized the importance of fully informing patients of these potential risks and said that patients treated with BMP-2 in the cervical spine should know:

- s. The signs and symptoms of airway complications, including difficulty breathing or swallowing, or swelling of the neck, tongue, mouth, throat and shoulders or upper chest area
- t. That they need to seek medical attention immediately at the first sign of an airway complication
- u. That they need to be especially watchful 2-14 days after the procedure when airway complications are more likely to occur
- v. rhBMP-2 (contained in Infuse Bone Graft) has received pre-market approval for fusion of the lumbar spine in skeletally mature patients with degenerative disc disease at one level from L2-S1 and for healing of acute, open tibial shaft fractures stabilized with an IM nail and treated within 14 days of the initial injury

160. Additionally, BMP is not approved in any manner for use in patients who are skeletally immature (<18 years of age) or pregnant.

161. Dr. Durrani and the Hospitals ignored ALL of these warnings and used BMP-2 in cervical spine surgeries, children, and those with known compromising factors such as osteoporosis, smoking, and diabetes.

162. Furthermore, the Notification stated that the FDA requires hospitals and other user facilities to report deaths and serious injuries associated with the use of medical devices.

163. The Hospitals that allowed Dr. Durrani to use BMP-2 in their facilities failed to report any complications resulting from his use of BMP-2.

VII. SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

164. Medtronic's actions did not go unnoticed, and in June of 2011 the Senate Finance Committee began an investigation into the fraudulent actions of Medtronic.

165. Medtronic produced more than 5,000 documents pertaining to 13 different studies of BMP-2 for the investigation.

166. On October 25, 2012, Senate Finance Committee Chairman Max Baucus (D-Mont.) and senior member Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa) released the results of their 16-month investigation into Medtronic, which revealed questionable ties between the medical technology company and the physician consultants tasked with testing and reviewing Medtronic products.

167. The investigation revealed that Medtronic employees collaborated with physician authors to edit and write segments of published studies on BMP-2/Infuse without publicly disclosing this collaboration.

168. These fraudulently-produced studies may have inaccurately represented BMP-2's risks and may have placed added weight on the side effects of alternative treatments.

169. The Senate investigation further found that Medtronic also maintained significant, previously undisclosed financial ties with physicians who authored studies about BMP-2, making \$210 million in payments to physicians over a 15-year period.

170. Senator Baucus stated, “Medtronic’s actions violate the trust patients have in their medical care. Medical journal articles should convey an accurate picture of the risks and benefits of drugs and medical devices, but patients are at serious risk when companies distort the facts the way Medtronic has. Patients everywhere will be better served by a more open, honest system without this kind of collusion.”

171. Senator Grassley stated, “The findings also should prompt medical journals to take a very proactive approach to accounting for the content of the articles along with the authorship of the articles and the studies they feature. These publications are prestigious and influential, and their standing rests on rigorous science and objectivity. It’s in the interest of these journals to take action, and the public will benefit from more transparency and accountability on their part.”

172. Major findings of the investigation include:

- a. Medtronic was involved in drafting, editing, and shaping the content of medical journal articles authored by its physician consultants who received significant amounts of money through royalties and consulting fees from Medtronic. The company’s role in authoring or substantially editing these articles was not disclosed in the published articles. Medical journals should ensure that any industry role in drafting articles or contributions to authors is fully disclosed.
- b. Medtronic paid a total of approximately \$210 million to physician authors of Medtronic-sponsored studies from November 1996 through December 2010 for consulting, royalty and other arrangements.

- c. An e-mail exchange shows that a Medtronic employee recommended against publishing a complete list of adverse events, or side effects, possibly associated with BMP-2/Infuse in a 2005 *Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery* article.
- d. Medtronic officials inserted language into studies that promoted BMP-2 as a better technique than an alternative by emphasizing the pain associated with the alternative.
- e. Documents indicate that Medtronic prepared one expert's remarks to the FDA advisory panel meeting prior to BMP-2 being approved. At the time, the expert was a private physician but was later hired to be a vice president at Medtronic in 2007.
- f. Medtronic documents show the company successfully attempted to adopt weaker safety rules for a clinical trial studying BMP-2 in the cervical spine that would have allowed the company to continue the trial in the event that patients experienced severe swelling in the neck.

VIII. YODA STUDY

173. In response to the various controversies surrounding BMP-2/Infuse, including a June 2011 article in the journal *Spine*, the Yale University Open Data Access (YODA) team reached an agreement for Medtronic to provide full individual participant data from all their trials of rhBMP-2 and allow unrestricted independent re-analysis of this data.

174. The YODA study involved research teams at two universities – the University of York and the Oregon Health and Science University.

175. The review focused exclusively on the use of rhBMP-2 in patients undergoing spinal fusion surgery for treatment of degenerative disc disease, spondylolisthesis, or any other relevant spinal condition.

176. The three main objectives of the study were: 1) to examine the potential benefits of BMP-2, 2) to examine the potential harms of BMP-2, and 3) to assess the reliability of the published evidence base.

177. Medtronic submitted data from 17 studies, including 12 randomized controlled trials (RCTs).

178. In total, the YODA study analyzed the data from 1,409 participants.

179. Though the results showed moderate success with fusions as a result of BMP-2, the study found that BMP-2 results in several different complications including: arthritis, implant-related events, retrograde ejaculation, wound complications, and neurological, urogenital, and vascular events.

180. In regard to the alleged tampering with the peer-reviewed studies by Medtronic, the YODA study found that only two out of twenty peer-reviewed journal publications reported a comprehensive list of all adverse events that occurred during the studies.

181. Furthermore, the way in which adverse event data was presented in the literature was inconsistent, and the rationale for presenting some adverse events but not others was rarely clear.

182. The study concluded that for the period up to 24 months after surgery, treatment with BMP-2 increases the probability of successful fusion (according to Medtronic definitions and reports, which the study noted “were subjective so it is not possible to confirm whether reported successful fusions truly were successful” see YODA Study, p.

35) but this does not translate to clinically meaningful benefits in pain reduction, function, or quality of life. The small benefits in these outcomes observed from six months onward come at the expense of more pain in the immediate post-operative period and a possible increased risk of cancer.

183. Even more relevant to the case against Dr. Durrani and the Hospitals is the YODA study's conclusion that, "[i]t is very important that these findings are expressed clearly and discussed with patients so that they can make informed choices about the type of surgery they would prefer." *Id.*

184. The University of Oregon Study determined that Infuse/BMP-2 is not better than Autograft, while the University of York study determined that Infuse/BMP-2 offers only a slight and not statistically significant advantage over Autograft.

185. The YODA study concluded that Medtronic "misrepresented the effectiveness and harms through selective reporting, duplicate publication, and underreporting."

186. Adverse event categories such as heterotopic bone formation, osteolysis, and radiculitis were not included in participant databases or internal reports; therefore, the safety profile was not fully assessed.

187. The YODA study further concluded that Medtronic was involved in drafting, editing, and shaping the content of medical journal articles on Infuse/BMP-2 authored by its physician consultants who received significant amounts of money through royalties and consulting fees from Medtronic. The company's significant role in authoring or substantively editing these articles was not disclosed in the published articles.

188. Medtronic paid a total of approximately \$210 million to the physician authors of Medtronic-sponsored studies on Infuse from November 1996 through 2010 for consulting, royalty and other arrangements.

189. An email exchange showed that a Medtronic employee recommended against publishing a complete list of adverse events or side effects possibly associated with Infuse in a 2005 *Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery* article.

190. Medtronic officials inserted language into studies that promoted Infuse as a better technique than an alternative procedure by overemphasizing the pain associated with the alternative procedure.

191. Medtronic's actions violated the trust patients have in their medical care. Medical journal articles should convey an accurate picture of the risks and benefits of drugs and medical devices, but patients are at serious risk when companies distort the facts the way Medtronic has. See United States Senate Committee on Finance, October 2012.

192. Infuse was intended for a single level anterior lumbar interbody fusion performed with all three components in a specific spinal region. The three components are a tapered metallic spinal fusion cage (NOT PLASTIC), a recombinant human (BMP) bone Morphogenetic Protein, and a carrier/scaffold for the BMP and resulting bone. The Infuse product is inserted into the LT-CAGE Lumbar tapered Fusion Device component to form the complete Infuse Bone Graft/LT-Cage Lumbar Tapered Fusion Device. These components must be used as a system. The Infuse Bone Graft component must not be used without the LT-Cage Lumbar Tapered Fusion Device component.

193. BMP-2 is not supposed to be used in minors.

194. BMP-2 is not supposed to be used with smokers and diabetics because of vascular slowing.

195. BMP-2 should not be used with women in child bearing years.

196. BMP-2 is contraindicated for patients with a known hypersensitivity to rhBMP-2 and should not be used in the vicinity of a resected or extant tumor, in patients with active malignancy, or in patients undergoing treatment for a malignancy.

IX. DR. DURRANI AND BMP-2

197. Despite all of these warning signs, Dr. Durrani, with the full knowledge of the Defendants, continued to use BMP-2 in ways not approved by the FDA, or in an “off-label” manner.

198. As early as 2007, Dr. Durrani and UC Health knew there were issues with BMP-2 because insurance companies such as Anthem were refusing to pay for BMP-2.

199. Medtronic provided in writing to Dr. Durrani and CAST the approved uses for Infuse/BMP-2.

200. However, Dr. Durrani and the Defendants continued to use BMP-2 in off-label ways, including but not limited to:

- a. Using BMP-2/Infuse in children, despite Medtronic specifically requiring it be used only in “skeletally mature patients;”
- b. Using it outside the L2-S1 level of the spine;
- c. Ignoring the requirement that BMP-2/Infuse only be used for Grade 1 spondylolisthesis or Grade 1 retrolisthesis;
- d. Not requiring at least six months of non-operative treatment prior to the use of BMP-2/Infuse;

- e. Using BMP-2/Infuse without the required cage;
- f. Not using the “carrier scaffold” in conjunction with BMP-2/Infuse as required;
- g. Using BMP-2/Infuse without proper training despite Medtronic’s warning,
“Caution: Federal (USA) law restricts this device to sale by or on the order of a
physician with appropriate training or experience.”

201. Dr. Durrani was a paid consultant for Medtronic.

202. According to Dr. Durrani’s own deposition testimony in several cases, Medtronic required one of their representatives to be present in the operating room when its product BMP-2/Infuse is used.

203. Because Medtronic representatives were present in these surgeries, Medtronic knew when Dr. Durrani used BMP-2/Infuse outside the approved uses according to Medtronic’s own guidelines.

204. Dr. Durrani was encouraged by Medtronic to obtain peer review and published studies from Medtronic sales representatives to support his use of BMP-2/Infuse.

205. Dr. Durrani was encouraged by Medtronic to be an advocate for his patients and describe how BMP-2/Infuse technology can benefit them.

206. When asked how he got his Medtronic grant, Dr. Durrani responded, “You apply to the Medtronic’s corporate and say this is what we want to do, like everybody else in the country applies, and then they come and evaluate the thing and say, “Okay, we think it’s worthy. We’ll give you the grant.”

207. In regard to his role as a Medtronic consultant, Dr. Durrani stated, “If there are certain products that they help us in developing, then they will come to us for a certain consultant role for a certain product development.”

208. Dr. Durrani also stated, "I was involved in the development of the minimally invasive spine instrumentation."

209. Dr. Durrani gave conflicting reports on his financial relationship with Medtronic.

210. In a deposition, when asked when his relationship with Medtronic began, Dr. Durrani responded "2000-it's 2003, '04. Something in that category. I'm not sure. It's on the Medtronic website. You can go look at it."

211. Medtronic's website has no information regarding their relationship with Dr. Durrani.

212. In another deposition, Dr. Durrani stated he began his relationship with Medtronic in "2005 or '06."

213. Dr. Durrani also gave conflicting reports on how much compensation he received from Medtronic for his consultation services.

214. In one deposition, Dr. Durrani stated in response to an inquiry as to how much payment he received, "It's a standard compensation. Again, it's on the website, how much they've paid us."

215. Again, this information is not available on the Medtronic website.

216. In another deposition, when asked if he received income from Medtronic, Dr. Durrani replied, "No, I don't."

217. When questioned further if he received a fee as a consultant, he stated, "If you do a work, there is a contractual obligation that they have to pay you. As I told you in my last deposition, they did declare it on their website, so you can actually go on the website and see how much they paid."

218. In another deposition, Dr. Durrani stated that he received, “less than \$10,000 in ten years” from Medtronic.

219. An email dated July 30, 2008 from Medtronic Senior Product Manager Katie Stamps to Dr. Durrani states that she “is in the process of working on the renewal of your [Dr. Durrani’s] consulting agreement.” As stated, this information is not available on Medtronic’s website, nor is any information relating to Dr. Durrani’s role as a consultant for Medtronic.

220. A CCHMC packet relating to its Orthopedics department indicated that Dr. Durrani received \$60,000 in grants, contracts, or industry agreements from Medtronic Sofamor Danek in FY 2008.

221. Financial information discovered concerning Dr. Durrani’s relationship with Medtronic was found in Dr. Durrani’s biography on the website for the Orthopaedic & Spine Institute, which Dr. Durrani currently operates in Pakistan. The biography states that “Dr. Atiq Dr. Durrani has also received the Clinical Spine Fellowship Grant by the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery which was funded by Medtronic Sofamor Danek with a budget of \$59,170 per year.” See <http://www.osi.com.pk/doctor/dr-atiq-Dr. Durrani-md/>.

222. When a request was made to Medtronic regarding its affiliation with Dr. Durrani, the Medtronic Supplier Relations Team stated that Dr. Durrani’s “name [is] not listed in our system.”

223. Medtronic further responded to the Deters Law Firm’s request that the firm would need a “Vendor I.D. Number,” which neither Medtronic nor any other party has provided.

224. David Rattigan, was Dr. Durrani’s main Medtronic representative from Bahler Medical.

225. David Rattigan and Medtronic have the same lawyer. Despite the Deters Law Firm's willingness to cooperate in scheduling the date for a deposition, they have refused until recently. Mr. Rattigan's deposition was taken June 5, 2015.

226. In summary, clients of the Deters Law Firm, with the full knowledge and intentional consent of all Defendants, became unsuspecting experiments for real world testing of Medtronic hardware and BMP-2, by and through Dr. Durrani and CAST, who had secret financial connections to Medtronic, improper motives, and submitted false claims. The government paid for many of these improper and unregulated experiments as a result of the false claims made by Dr. Durrani, with the knowledge of Medtronic, under the veil of "medically necessary" surgeries.

227. Despite repeated requests, Medtronic has refused to cooperate in providing any requested information and is actively downplaying their connections to Dr. Durrani.

X. THE DEFENDANTS AND BMP-2

228. The purpose of the background information on the following Defendants and BMP-2 concerning other hospitals is to show the egregious methods, which upon information and belief were used at all hospitals.

229. The Defendants allowed and encouraged these practices by Dr. Durrani for the sole purpose of money and greed.

230. David Rattigan was always present in Dr. Durrani's operating rooms as a representative of Medtronic.

231. David Rattigan's sole job was to deliver the BMP-2/Infuse to the Hospitals and make sure that it was inserted correctly into the patient.

232. David Rattigan's presence in the OR further supports the Defendants awareness of Dr. Durrani's fraudulent use of BMP-2/Infuse.

233. **Informed Consent for Surgical or Medical Procedure and Sedation:**

It is the responsibly of the attending physician to obtain informed consent prior to the procedure. The patient, or his/her representative, will be advised by his/her physician of:

- a. The explanation of the procedure
- b. The benefits of the procedure
- c. The potential problems that might occur during recuperation
- d. The risks and side effects of the procedure which could include but are not limited to severe blood loss, infection, stroke or death.
- e. The benefits, risks and side effect of alternative procedures including the consequences of declining this procedure or any alternative procedures.
- f. The likelihood of achieving satisfactory results

Completion of the "Consent to Hospital and Medical Treatment" form to examine and treat is NOT sufficient as consent to perform a surgical procedure, invasive procedure, or for medical regimens of substantial risk or that are the subject of human investigation or research.

236. The Defendants had the responsibility to carry out these consent rules.

237. Dr. Durrani oftentimes used BMP-2 "off-label" when performing surgeries.

238. BMP-2 is manufactured, marketed, sold and distributed by Defendant Medtronic under the trade name "Infuse."

239. Dr. Durrani is a consultant for Medtronic.

240. Defendants did not inform Plaintiffs of Durrani's financial interest, conflicts of interest or consulting arrangement with Medtronic.

241. Medtronic, provided in writing to Dr. Durrani the approved uses for BMP-2, the substance also referred to as Infuse, which is a bone morphogenic protein, used as an artificial substitute for bone grafting in spine surgeries.

242. BMP-2 is not approved by the Food and Drug Administration for use in the cervical and thoracic spine.

243. BMP-2 is *neither safe nor approved for use on children less than twenty one (21) years of age.*

244. For use in spinal surgery, BMP-2/Infuse is approved by the FDA for a limited procedure, performed on a limited area of the spine, using specific components.

Specifically, the FDA approved Infuse for one procedure of the spine: Anterior Lumbar Interbody Fusion (“ALIF” or “Anterior” approach); and only in one area of the spine: L4 to S1; and only when used in conjunction with FDA-Approved Components: LT-CAGE Lumbar Tapered Fusion Device Component (“LT-CAGE”)

245. Use of Infuse in cervical or thoracic surgery, or use through the back (posterior), or side (lateral), or on areas of the spine outside of the L4-S1 region (e.g., the cervical spine), or using components other than or in addition to the LT-CAGE is not approved by the FDA, and thus such procedures and/or use of non-FDA approved componentry is termed “off-label.”

246. When used off-label, Infuse frequently causes excessive or uncontrolled (also referred to as “ectopic” or “exuberant”) bone growth on or around the spinal cord. When nerves are compressed by such excessive bone growth, a patient can experience, among other adverse events, intractable pain, paralysis, spasms, and cramps in limbs.

247. The product packaging for BMP-2/Infuse indicates it causes an increased risk of cancer four (4) times greater than other bone graft alternatives.

248. Dr. Durrani and Children's Hospital personnel did not disclose to Plaintiffs their intent to use BMP-2/Infuse, and further, did not disclose their intent to use BMP-2/Infuse in a way not approved by the FDA.

249. Dr. Durrani used BMP-2 in Plaintiff in a manner not approved by Medtronic or the FDA.

250. Defendants did not inform Plaintiffs that Dr. Durrani used Infuse/BMP-2 in his surgeries.

251. Plaintiffs would not have allowed BMP-2 to be used by Dr. Durrani in his surgery in a manner that was not approved by the FDA or Medtronic, Infuse/BMP-2's manufacturer.

252. Plaintiffs would not have consented to the use of BMP-2 in Plaintiff's body if informed of the risks by Dr. Durrani or any Children's Hospital personnel.

253. The written informed consent of Dr. Durrani signed by Plaintiffs lacked the disclosure of Infuse/BMP-2's use in his procedures.

254. Plaintiffs never received a verbal disclosure of Infuse/BMP-2 from Dr. Durrani or any Children's Hospital personnel.

255. Medtronic specifically required Infuse/BMP-2 only be used in "skeletally mature patients" with degenerative disc disease.

256. Medtronic required at least six (6) months of non-operative treatment prior to use of Infuse/BMP-2.

257. Dr. Durrani regularly used Infuse/BMP-2 without this six (6) month non-operative treatment.

258. Medtronic required BMP-2 always be used in conjunction with a metal LT cage.

259. Dr. Durrani regularly used BMP-2 without a proper LT cage in his surgeries.

INFUSE/BMP-2

260. Dr. Durrani oftentimes used BMP-2 “off-label” when performing surgeries.

261. BMP-2 is manufactured, marketed, sold and distributed by Defendant Medtronic under the trade name “Infuse.”

262. Dr. Durrani is a consultant for Medtronic.

263. Defendants did not inform Plaintiff of Durrani's financial interest, conflicts of interest or consulting arrangement with Medtronic.

264. Medtronic, provided in writing to Dr. Durrani and CAST the approved uses for BMP-2, the substance also referred to as Infuse, which is a bone morphogenic protein, used as an artificial substitute for bone grafting in spine surgeries.

265. BMP-2 is not approved by the Food and Drug Administration for use in the cervical and thoracic spine.

266. BMP-2 is neither safe nor approved for use on children less than twenty one (21) years of age.

267. For use in spinal surgery, BMP-2/Infuse is approved by the FDA for a limited procedure, performed on a limited area of the spine, using specific components.

Specifically, the FDA approved Infuse for one procedure of the spine: Anterior Lumbar Interbody Fusion (“ALIF” or “Anterior” approach); and only in one area of the spine: L4

to S1; and only when used in conjunction with FDA-Approved Components: LT-CAGE Lumbar Tapered Fusion Device Component ("LT-CAGE")

268. Use of Infuse in cervical or thoracic surgery, or use through the back (posterior), or side (lateral), or on areas of the spine outside of the L4-S1 region (e.g., the cervical spine), or using components other than or in addition to the LT-CAGE is not approved by the FDA, and thus such procedures and/or use of non-FDA approved componentry is termed "off-label."

269. When used off-label, Infuse frequently causes excessive or uncontrolled (also referred to as "ectopic" or "exuberant") bone growth on or around the spinal cord. When nerves are compressed by such excessive bone growth, a patient can experience, among other adverse events, intractable pain, paralysis, spasms, and cramps in limbs.

270. The product packaging for BMP-2/Infuse indicates it causes an increased risk of cancer four (4) times greater than other bone graft alternatives.

271. Dr. Durrani, CAST staff and employees, and Journey Lite personnel did not disclose to Plaintiff their intent to use BMP-2/Infuse, and further, did not disclose their intent to use BMP-2/Infuse in a way not approved by the FDA.

272. Dr. Durrani used BMP-2 in Plaintiff in manners not approved by Medtronic or the FDA.

273. Plaintiff was not informed by Defendants that Dr. Durrani used Infuse/BMP-2 in her surgeries.

274. Plaintiff would not have allowed BMP-2 to be used by Dr. Durrani in her surgeries in a manner that was not approved by the FDA or Medtronic, Infuse/BMP-2's manufacturer.

275. Plaintiff would not have consented to the use of BMP-2 in her body if informed of the risks by Dr. Durrani, CAST staff and employees, or any Journey Lite Personnel.

276. The written informed consent of Dr. Durrani, CAST, and Journey Lite, signed by Plaintiff lacked the disclosure of Infuse/BMP-2's use in her procedures.

277. Plaintiff never received a verbal disclosure of Infuse/BMP-2 from Dr. Durrani, CAST staff and employees, or any Journey Lite Personnel.

278. Medtronic specifically required Infuse/BMP-2 only be used in "skeletally mature patients" with degenerative disc disease.

279. Medtronic required at least six (6) months of non-operative treatment prior to use of Infuse/BMP-2.

280. Dr. Durrani regularly used Infuse/BMP-2 without this six (6) month non-operative treatment.

281. Medtronic required BMP-2 always be used in conjunction with a metal LT cage.

282. Dr. Durrani regularly used BMP-2 without a proper LT cage in her surgery.

PUREGEN

283. Dr. Durrani oftentimes used Puregen when performing surgeries.

284. Puregen is a product produced by Alphatec Spine.

285. Dr. Durrani was and is a paid consultant for Alphatec Spine.

286. Dr. Durrani has an ownership stake in the Alphatec Spine.

287. Puregen has never been approved by the FDA for any human use.

288. Puregen is now removed from the market for any use.

289. Dr. Durrani used the product Puregen as bone graft substitute similar to Infuse/BMP-2 during spinal surgeries.

290. Dr. Durrani, CAST staff and employees, and Journey Lite personnel did not disclose their intent to use Puregen, nor did they inform Plaintiff that it was a product that was not approved by the FDA for human use.

291. Dr. Durrani used Puregen in Plaintiff in manners not approved by the FDA.

292. Plaintiff was not informed by Dr. Durrani, CAST staff and employees, or any Journey Lite personnel that Dr. Durrani used Puregen in Plaintiff's surgeries.

293. Plaintiff would not have allowed Puregen to be used by Dr. Durrani in her surgeries in a manner that was not approved by the FDA.

294. Plaintiff would not have consented to the use of Puregen in her body if informed of the risks by Dr. Durrani, CAST staff and employees, or any Journey Lite personnel..

295. The written informed consent of Dr. Durrani and CAST signed by Plaintiff lacked the disclosure of Puregen's use in her proceduress.

296. Plaintiff never received a verbal disclosure of Puregen from Dr. Durrani, CAST staff and employees, or any Journey Lite personnel.

DR. DURRANI COUNTS:

COUNT I: NEGLIGENCE

297. Defendant Dr. Durrani owed his patient, Plaintiff, the duty to exercise the degree of skill, care, and diligence an ordinarily prudent health care provider would have exercised under like or similar circumstances.

298. Defendant Dr. Durrani breached his duty by failing to exercise the requisite degree of skill, care and diligence that an ordinarily prudent health care provider would have exercised under same or similar circumstances through, among other things, negligent diagnosis, medical mismanagement and mistreatment of Plaintiff, including but

not limited to improper selection for surgery, improper performance of the surgeries, and improper follow-up care addressing a patient's concerns.

299. As a direct and proximate result of the aforementioned negligence and deviation from the standard of care on the part of the Defendant Dr. Durrani, Plaintiff sustained all damages requested in the prayer for relief.

COUNT II: BATTERY

300. Dr. Durrani committed battery against Plaintiff by performing surgeries that were unnecessary, contraindicated for Plaintiff's medical condition, and for which he did not properly obtain informed consent, inter alia, by using Infuse/BMP-2, PureGen and/or Baxano in ways and for surgeries not approved by the FDA and medical community, and by the failure to provide this information to Plaintiff.

301. Plaintiff would not have agreed to the surgeries if she knew the surgeries were unnecessary, not approved by the FDA, and not indicated.

302. As a direct and proximate result of the aforementioned battery by Dr. Durrani, Plaintiff sustained all damages requested in the prayer for relief.

COUNT III: LACK OF INFORMED CONSENT

303. The informed consent forms from Dr. Durrani and CAST, which they required Plaintiff to sign, failed to fully cover all the information necessary and required for the procedures and surgical procedures performed by Dr. Durrani. Dr. Durrani and CAST each required an informed consent release.

304. In addition, no one verbally informed Plaintiff of the information and risks required for informed consent at the time of or before the Plaintiff's surgeries.

305. Dr. Durrani failed to inform Plaintiff of material risks and dangers inherent or potentially involved with her surgeries and procedures.

306. Plaintiff subsequently developed severe and grievous injuries as a direct and proximate result of lack of informed consent.

307. Had Plaintiff been appropriately informed of the need or lack of need for surgeries and other procedures and the risks of the procedures, Plaintiff would not have undergone the surgeries or procedures.

COUNT IV: INTENTIONAL INFLICTION OF EMOTIONAL DISTRESS

308. Dr. Durrani's conduct as described above was intentional and reckless.

309. It is outrageous and offends against the generally accepted standards of morality.

310. It was the proximate and actual cause of Plaintiff's psychological injuries, emotional injuries, mental anguish, suffering, and distress.

311. Plaintiff suffered severe distress and anguish so serious and of a nature that no reasonable man or woman would be expected to endure.

COUNT V: FRAUD

312. Dr. Durrani made material, false representations to Plaintiff and her insurance company related to Plaintiff's treatment including: stating the surgeries were necessary, that Dr. Durrani "could fix" Plaintiff, that more conservative treatment was unnecessary and futile, that the surgery would be simple or was "no big deal", that Plaintiff would be walking normally within days after each surgery, that the procedures were medically necessary and accurately reported on the billing to the insurance company, that the surgeries were successful, and that Plaintiff was medically stable and ready to be discharged.

313. Dr. Durrani also concealed the potential use of Infuse/BMP-2 and/or Puregen in Plaintiff's surgeries when he had a duty to disclose to Plaintiff his planned use of the same.

314. These misrepresentations and/or concealments were material to Plaintiff because they directly induced the Plaintiff to undergo her surgeries.

315. Dr. Durrani knew or should have known such representations were false, and/or made the misrepresentations with utter disregard and recklessness as to their truth that knowledge of their falsity may be inferred.

316. Dr. Durrani made the misrepresentations before, during, and after the surgeries, with the intent of misleading Plaintiff and her insurance company into relying upon them. Specifically, the misrepresentations were made to induce payment by the insurance company, without which Dr. Durrani would not have performed the surgery, and to induce Plaintiff to undergo the surgeries without regard to medical necessity and only for the purpose of receiving payment.

317. The misrepresentations and/or concealments were made during the Plaintiff's office visits at Dr. Durrani's CAST offices and/or at West Chester Hospital and/or at Journey Lite.

318. Plaintiff was justified in her reliance on the misrepresentations because a patient has a right to trust their doctor and that the facility is overseeing the doctor to ensure the patients of that doctor can trust the facility.

As a direct and proximate result of the aforementioned fraud, Plaintiff did undergo surgery, which was paid for in whole or in part by her insurance company, and suffered all damages requested in the prayer for relief.

COUNT VI: SPOILIATION OF EVIDENCE

319. Dr. Durrani willfully altered, destroyed, delayed, hid, modified and/or spoiled (“spoiled”) Plaintiff’s records, billing records, emails, paperwork and related evidence.

320. Dr. Durrani spoiled evidence with knowledge that there was pending or probable litigation involving Plaintiff.

321. Dr. Durrani’s conduct was designed to disrupt Plaintiff’s potential and/or actual case, and did in fact and proximately cause disruption, damages and harm to Plaintiff.

COUNT VII: LOSS OF CONSORTIUM

322. At all times relevant, the Plaintiffs were married.

323. As a result of the wrongful acts and omissions of Dr. Durrani, Plaintiffs were caused to suffer, and will continue to suffer in the future, loss of consortium, loss of society, loss of affection, loss of assistance, and loss of conjugal fellowship, all to the detriment of Plaintiffs’ marital relationship.

324. All the aforesaid injuries and damages were caused proximately by the acts and omissions of Dr. Durrani.

CAST COUNTS:

COUNT I: VICARIOUS LIABILITY

325. At all times relevant, Defendant Dr. Durrani was an agent, and/or employee of CAST.

326. Dr. Durrani is in fact, the owner of CAST.

327. Defendant Dr. Durrani was performing within the scope of his employment with CAST during the care and treatment of Plaintiff.

328. Defendant CAST is responsible for harm caused by acts of its employees for conduct that was within the scope of employment under the theory of respondeat superior.

329. Defendant CAST is vicariously liable for the acts of Defendant Dr. Durrani alleged in this Complaint including all of the counts asserted against Dr. Durrani directly.

330. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant CAST's acts and omissions, Plaintiff sustained all damages requested in the prayer for relief.

COUNT II: NEGLIGENT HIRING, RETENTION & SUPERVISION

331. CAST provided Dr. Durrani, inter alia, financial support, control, medical facilities, billing and insurance payment support, staff support, medicines, and tangible items for use on patients.

332. CAST and Dr. Durrani participated in experiments using Infuse/BMP-2 and/or Puregen bone graft on patients, including Plaintiff, without obtaining proper informed consent thereby causing harm to Plaintiff.

333. CAST breached its duty to Plaintiff, inter alia, by not supervising or controlling the actions of Dr. Durrani and the doctors, nurses, staff, and those with privileges, during the medical treatment of Plaintiff at CAST.

334. The Safe Medical Device Act required entities such as CAST to report serious injuries, serious illnesses, and deaths related to failed medical devices to the FDA and the manufacturer; this was never done.

335. Such disregard for and violations of federal law represents strong evidence that CAST negligently hired, retained and supervised Dr. Durrani.

336. As a direct and proximate result of the acts and omissions herein described, including but not limited to failure to properly supervise medical treatment by Dr. Durrani, Plaintiff sustained all damages requested in the prayer for relief.

COUNT III: FRAUD

337. Upon information and belief, Plaintiff believes the bills requested by Plaintiff will indicate that CAST falsely represented that Plaintiff's surgery was appropriately indicated, performed and medically necessary in contra-indication of the standard of care.

338. CAST sent out billing to Plaintiff's insurance company after the surgeries at Journey Lite.

339. The exact dates these medical bills were sent out are reflected in those medical bills.

340. These bills constituted affirmative representations by CAST that the charges related to Plaintiff's surgeries were medically appropriate and properly documented.

341. The bills were sent with the knowledge of CAST that in fact Plaintiff's surgeries were not appropriately billed and documented and that the services rendered at Journey Lite associated with Dr. Durrani were not appropriate.

342. The bills sent by CAST to Plaintiff falsely represented that Plaintiff's surgeries were appropriately indicated, performed and medically necessary in contra-indication of the standard of care.

343. Plaintiff relied on the facility holding Dr. Durrani out as a surgeon and allowing him to perform surgeries at its health care facility as assurance the facility was overseeing Dr. Durrani, vouching for his surgical abilities, and further was appropriately billing Plaintiff for CAST's services in association with Dr. Durrani's surgery.

344. As a direct and proximate result of this reliance on the billing of CAST, Plaintiff incurred medical bills that she otherwise would not have incurred.

345. CAST also either concealed from Plaintiff that they knew about Dr. Durrani, including that Infuse/BMP-2 and/or Puregen would be used in Plaintiff's surgeries, or misrepresented to Plaintiff the nature of the surgeries, and the particular risks that were involved therein.

346. CAST's concealments and misrepresentations regarding Infuse/BMP-2 and/or Puregen and the nature and risks of Plaintiff's surgeries were material facts.

347. Because of its superior position and professional role as a medical service provider, CAST had a duty to disclose these material facts to Plaintiff and a duty to refrain from misrepresenting such material facts to Plaintiff.

348. CAST intentionally concealed and/or misrepresented said material facts with the intent to defraud Plaintiff in order to induce Plaintiff to undergo the surgeries, and thereby profited from the surgeries and procedures Dr. Durrani performed on Plaintiff at Journey Lite.

349. Plaintiff was unaware that BMP-2 and/or Puregen would be used in Plaintiff's surgeries and therefore, was unaware of the health risks of Infuse/BMP-2 and/or Puregen's use in Plaintiff's spine.

350. Had Plaintiff known before Plaintiff's surgeries that Infuse/BMP-2 and/or Puregen would be used in Plaintiff's spine and informed of the specific, harmful risks flowing therefrom, Plaintiff would not have undergone the surgery with Dr. Durrani at Journey Lite.

351. Upon information and belief, Plaintiff believes the bills requested by Plaintiff will indicate that CAST falsely represented that Plaintiff's surgery was appropriately indicated, performed, and medically necessary in contra-indication of the standard of care.

352. Plaintiffs are still awaiting itemized billing from CAST reflecting the exact totals charged for the use of Infuse BMP-2 and/or Puregen.

353. As a direct and proximate result of the fraud against plaintiff by CAST, Plaintiff sustained all damages requested in the prayer for relief.

COUNT IV: OHIO CONSUMER SALES PROTECTION ACT

354. Although the Ohio Consumer Sales Protection statutes O.R.C 1345.01 et seq. exempts physicians, a transaction between a hospital and a patient/consumer is not clearly exempted.

355. CAST's services rendered to Plaintiff constitute a "consumer transaction" as defined in ORC Section 1345.01(A).

356. CAST omitted suppressed and concealed from Plaintiff facts with the intent that Plaintiff rely on these omissions, suppressions and concealments as set forth herein.

357. CAST's misrepresentations, and its omissions, suppressions and concealments of fact, as described above, constituted unfair, deceptive and unconscionable acts and practices in violation of O.R.C 1345.02 and 1345.03 and to Substantive Rules and case law.

358. CAST was fully aware of its actions.

359. CAST was fully aware that Plaintiff was induced by and relied upon CAST's representations at the time CAST was engaged by Plaintiff.

360. Had Plaintiff been aware that CAST's representations as set forth above were untrue, Plaintiff would not have used the services of Defendants.

361. CAST, through its agency and employees knowingly committed the unfair, deceptive and/or unconscionable acts and practices described above.

362. CAST's actions were not the result of any bona fide errors.

363. As a result of CAST's unfair, deceptive and unconscionable acts and practices, Plaintiff has suffered and continues to suffer damages, which include, but are not limited to the following:

- a. Loss of money paid
- b. Severe aggravation and inconveniences
- c. Under O.R.C. 1345.01 Plaintiff is entitled to:
 - i. An order requiring CAST restore to Plaintiff all money received from Plaintiff plus three times actual damages and/or actual/statutory damages for each violation;
 - ii. All incidental and consequential damages incurred by Plaintiff;
 - iii. All reasonable attorneys' fees, witness fees, court costs and other fees incurred;
 - iv. Such other and further relief that this Court deems just and appropriate.

COUNT V: SPOILIATION OF EVIDENCE

364. CAST, through its agents and employees, willfully altered, destroyed, delayed, hid, modified and/or spoiled ("spoiled") Plaintiff's records, billing records, emails, paperwork and related evidence.

365. CAST, through its agents and employees, spoiled evidence with knowledge that there was pending or probable litigation involving Plaintiff.

366. CAST's conduct was designed to disrupt Plaintiff's potential and/or actual case, and did in fact and proximately cause disruption, damages and harm to Plaintiff.

COUNT VI: LOSS OF CONSORTIUM

367. At all times relevant, the Plaintiffs were married.

368. As a result of the wrongful acts and omissions of Dr. Durrani, Plaintiffs were caused to suffer, and will continue to suffer in the future, loss of consortium, loss of society, loss of affection, loss of assistance, and loss of conjugal fellowship, all to the detriment of Plaintiffs' marital relationship.

369. All the aforesaid injuries and damages were caused proximately by the acts and omissions of Dr. Durrani.

JOURNEY LITE COUNTS:

COUNT I: NEGLIGENCE

370. Journey Lite owed its patient, Plaintiff, through its agents and employees the duty to exercise the degree of skill, care, and diligence an ordinarily prudent health care provider would have exercised under like or similar circumstances.

371. Journey Lite, acting through its agents and employees breached its duty by failing to exercise the requisite degree of skill, care and diligence that an ordinarily prudent health care provider would have exercised under same or similar circumstances through, among other things, negligent diagnosis, medical mismanagement and mistreatment of Plaintiff, including but not limited to improper selection for surgery, improper performance of the surgery, improper assistance during Plaintiff's surgery and improper

follow up care addressing a patient's concerns.

372. The agents and employees who deviated from the standard of care include nurses, physician assistants, residents and other hospital personnel who participated in Plaintiff's surgery.

373. The management, employees, nurses, technicians, agents and all staff during the scope of their employment and/or agency of Journey Lite's knowledge and approval, either knew or should have known the surgery was not medically necessary based upon Dr. Durrani's known practices; the pre-op radiology; the pre-op evaluation and assessment; and the violation of their responsibility under the bylaws, rules, regulations and policies of Journey Lite.

374. As a direct and proximate result of the aforementioned negligence and deviation from the standard of care by the agents and employees of Journey Lite, Plaintiff sustained all damages requested in the prayer for relief.

COUNT II: NEGLIGENT CREDENTIALING, SUPERVISION, & RETENTION

375. As described in the Counts asserted directly against Dr. Durrani, the actions of Dr. Durrani with respect to Plaintiff constitute medical negligence, lack of informed consent, battery, and fraud.

376. Journey Lite negligently credentialed, supervised, and retained Dr. Durrani as a credentialed physician by:

- a. Violating their bylaws and JCAHO rules by allowing Dr. Durrani to repeatedly violate the Journey Lite bylaws with it's full knowledge of the same;

- b. Failing to adequately review, look into, and otherwise investigate Dr. Durrani's educational background, work history and peer reviews when he applied for and reapplied for privileges at Journey Lite;
- c. Ignoring complaints about Dr. Durrani's treatment of patients reported to it by Journey Lite staff, doctors, Dr. Durrani's patients and by others;
- d. Ignoring information they knew or should have known pertaining to Dr. Durrani's previous privileged time at other Cincinnati area hospitals, including Children's Hospital, Deaconess Hospital, University Hospital, Good Samaritan Hospital, West Chester Hospital/UC Health, and Christ Hospital.

377. The Safe Medical Device Act required entities such as Journey Lite to report serious injuries, serious illnesses, and deaths related to failed medical devices to the FDA and the manufacturer; this was never done.

378. As a direct and proximate result of the negligent credentialing, supervision, and retention of Dr. Durrani, Plaintiff sustained all damages requested in the prayer for relief.

COUNT III: FRAUD

379. Ohio Administrative Code 3701-83-07(A)(5) states, "Each patient shall receive, if requested, a detailed explanation of facility charges including an itemized bill for services rendered.

380. The bills sent to Plaintiff, after multiple requests, were in violation Ohio Administrative Code 3701-83-07(A)(5).

381. Upon information and belief, Plaintiff believes that Dr. Durrani implanted BMP-2/or Puregen into Plaintiff.

382. Even after Plaintiff's Counsel and the Ohio Attorney General requested itemized billing, Journey Lite still did not provide an itemized breakdown of the charges; instead Journey Lite continued to provide "Account Ledgers," which contained barebones "Insurance Billing" and "Insurance Payments."

383. Due to Journey Lite's downright refusal to comply with Plaintiff's request for itemized billing, Plaintiff has been forced to file a class action suit against Journey Lite's for their egregious billing practices.

384. The bills sent by Journey Lite to Plaintiff falsely represented that Plaintiff's surgeries were appropriately indicated, performed, and medically necessary in contra-indication of the standard of care.

385. Upon information and belief, Plaintiff believes the bills requested by Plaintiff will indicate that Journey Lite Hospital falsely represented that Plaintiff's surgery was appropriately indicated, performed, and medically necessary in contra-indication of the standard of care.

386. The bills were sent to Plaintiff's insurance company with the knowledge of Journey Lite that in fact Plaintiff's surgeries were not appropriately billed and documented and that the services rendered at Journey Lite associated with Dr. Durrani were not appropriate.

387. Plaintiffs relied on the facility holding Dr. Durrani out as a surgeon and allowing him to perform surgeries at its health care facility as assurance the facility was overseeing Dr. Durrani, vouching for his surgical abilities, and further was appropriately billing Plaintiffs for Journey Lite's services in association with Dr. Durrani's surgeries.

388. As a direct and proximate result of this reliance on the billing of Journey Lite, Plaintiff incurred medical bills that she otherwise would not have incurred.

389. Journey Lite also either concealed from Plaintiff that they knew about Dr. Durrani, including that Infuse/BMP-2 and/or Puregen would be used in Plaintiff's surgeries, or misrepresented to Plaintiff the nature of the surgeries and the particular risks that were involved therein.

390. Journey Lite's concealments and misrepresentations regarding Infuse/BMP-2 and/or Puregen and the nature and risks of Plaintiff's surgeries were material facts.

391. The use of BMP-2 increases a person's chance of cancer by 3.5%.

392. Due to the unnecessary surgeries Dr. Durrani performed, Plaintiff has a 3.5% increased chance of cancer because of the use of BMP-2.

393. As a direct and proximate result of the use and implementation of Infuse/BMP-2 Plaintiff has incurred a 3.5% increase in the risk of Cancer. As a result Plaintiff has an increased fear of cancer.

394. Because of its superior position and professional role as a medical service provider, Journey Lite had a duty to disclose these material facts to Plaintiffs and a duty to refrain from misrepresenting such material facts to Plaintiffs.

395. Journey Lite intentionally concealed and/or misrepresented said material facts with the intent to defraud Plaintiff in order to induce Plaintiff to undergo the surgeries, and thereby profited from the surgeries and procedures Dr. Durrani performed on Plaintiff at Journey Lite.

396. Plaintiff was unaware that Infuse/BMP-2 and/or Puregen would be used in Plaintiff's surgeries and therefore, was unaware of the health risks of Infuse/BMP-2 or Puregen's use in Plaintiff's spine.

397. Had Plaintiff known before Plaintiff's surgery that Puregen would be used in Plaintiff's spine and informed of the specific, harmful risks flowing there from, Plaintiff would not have undergone the surgeries with Dr. Durrani at Journey Lite.

398. Plaintiff is still awaiting itemized billing from Journey Lite Hospital reflecting the exact totals charged for the use of BMP-2 on Plaintiff.

399. As a direct and proximate result of the fraud upon Plaintiffs by Journey Lite, Plaintiff sustained all damages requested in the prayer for relief.

400. The bills were sent to Plaintiff's insurance company with the knowledge of Journey Lite that in fact Plaintiff's surgeries were not appropriately billed and documented and that the services rendered at Journey Lite associated with Dr. Durrani were not appropriate.

401. The bills sent by Journey Lite to Plaintiff falsely represented that Plaintiff's surgeries were appropriately indicated, performed and medically necessary in contra-indication of the standard of care.

402. Plaintiff relied on the facility holding Dr. Durrani out as a surgeon and allowing him to perform surgeries at its health care facility as assurance the facility was overseeing Dr. Durrani, vouching for his surgical abilities, and further was appropriately billing Plaintiff for Journey Lite's services in association with Dr. Durrani's surgeries.

403. As a direct and proximate result of this reliance on the billing of Journey Lite, Plaintiff incurred medical bills that she otherwise would not have incurred.

404. Journey Lite also either concealed from Plaintiff that Infuse/BMP-2 or Puregen would be used in Plaintiff's surgeries, or misrepresented to Plaintiff the nature of the surgeries and the particular risks that were involved therein.

405. Journey Lite's concealments and misrepresentations regarding Infuse/BMP-2 or Puregen and the nature and risks of Plaintiff's surgeries were material facts.

406. Because of its superior position and professional role as a medical service provider, Journey Lite had a duty to disclose these material facts to Plaintiff and a duty to refrain from misrepresenting such material facts to Plaintiff.

407. Journey Lite intentionally concealed and/or misrepresented said material facts with the intent to defraud Plaintiff in order to induce Plaintiff to undergo the surgery, and thereby profited from the surgery and procedure Dr. Durrani performed on Plaintiff at Journey Lite.

408. Plaintiff was unaware that Infuse/BMP-2 or Puregen would be used in Plaintiff's surgery and therefore, was unaware of the health risks of Infuse/BMP-2 or Puregen's use in Plaintiff's spine.

409. Had Plaintiff known before Plaintiff's surgery that Infuse/BMP-2 or Puregen would be used in Plaintiff's spine and informed of the specific, harmful risks flowing therefrom, Plaintiff would not have undergone the surgery with Dr. Durrani at Journey Lite.

410. As a direct and proximate result of the fraud upon Plaintiff by Journey Lite, Plaintiff sustained all damages requested in the prayer for relief.

COUNT IV: OHIO CONSUMER SALES PROTECTION ACT

411. Although the Ohio Consumer Sales Protection statutes O.R.C 1345.01 et seq. exempts physicians, a transaction between a hospital and a patient/consumer is not clearly exempted.

412. Journey Lite's services rendered to Plaintiff constitute a "consumer transaction" as defined in ORC Section 1345.01(A).

413. Journey Lite omitted suppressed and concealed from Plaintiff facts with the intent that Plaintiff rely on these omissions, suppressions and concealments as set forth herein.

414. Journey Lite's misrepresentations, and its omissions, suppressions and concealments of fact, as described above, constituted unfair, deceptive and unconscionable acts and practices in violation of O.R.C 1345.02 and 1345.03 and to Substantive Rules and case law.

415. Journey Lite was fully aware of its actions.

416. Journey Lite was fully aware that Plaintiff was induced by and relied upon Journey Lite's representations at the time Journey Lite was engaged by Plaintiff.

417. Had Plaintiff been aware that Journey Lite's representations as set forth above were untrue, Plaintiff would not have used the services of Defendants.

418. Journey Lite, through its agency and employees knowingly committed the unfair, deceptive and/or unconscionable acts and practices described above.

419. Journey Lite's actions were not the result of any bona fide errors.

420. As a result of Journey Lite's unfair, deceptive and unconscionable acts and practices, Plaintiff has suffered and continues to suffer damages, which include, but are not limited to the following:

- d. Loss of money paid
- e. Severe aggravation and inconveniences
- f. Under O.R.C. 1345.01 Plaintiffs are entitled to:
 - i. An order requiring Journey Lite restore to Plaintiff all money received from Plaintiff plus three times actual damages and/or actual/statutory damages for each violation;
 - ii. All incidental and consequential damages incurred by Plaintiff;
 - iii. All reasonable attorneys' fees, witness fees, court costs and other fees incurred;
 - iv. Such other and further relief that this Court deems just and appropriate.

COUNT V: PRODUCTS LIABILITY

421. At all times Infuse/BMP-2 and Puregen are and were products as defined in R.C. § 2307.71(A)(12) and applicable law.
422. Journey Lite (aka supplier) supplied either Medtronic's (aka manufacturer) Infuse/BMP-2 for surgery performed by Dr. Durrani on Plaintiff.
423. Journey Lite, as a supplier, failed to maintain Infuse/BMP-2 properly.
424. Journey Lite did not adequately supply all components required to use either Infuse/BMP-2 properly.
425. Journey Lite knew or should have known the FDA requirements and Medtronic's requirements for using either Infuse/BMP-2.
426. Journey Lite stored either Infuse/BMP-2 at its facility.
427. Journey Lite ordered either Infuse/BMP-2 for surgery performed by Durrani.

428. Journey Lite did not adequately warn Plaintiff that Infuse/BMP-2 would be used without all FDA and manufacturer required components.

429. Journey Lite did not gain informed consent from Plaintiff for the use of Infuse/BMP-2, let alone warn of the supplying of the product without FDA and manufacturer requirements.

430. Journey Lite failed to supply either Infuse/BMP-2 (aka product) in the manner in which it was represented.

431. Journey Lite failed to provide any warning or instruction in regard to Infuse/BMP-2, and failed to make sure any other party gave such warning or instruction.

432. Plaintiffs suffered physical, financial, and emotional harm due to Journey Lite's violation of the Ohio Products Liability act. Plaintiff's injuries were a foreseeable risk

433. Plaintiff did not alter, modify or change the product, nor did Plaintiff know that the product was being implanted without all required components.

434. Journey Lite knew or should have known that the product was extremely dangerous and should have exercised care to provide a warning that the product was being used and that the product was being used outside FDA and manufacturer requirements. The harm caused to Plaintiff by not providing an adequate warning was foreseeable.

435. Journey Lite knew that the product did not conform to the representation of the intended use by the manufacturer yet permitted the product to be implanted into Plaintiff.

436. Journey Lite, as a supplier, acted in an unconscionable manner in failing to supply the product without all FDA and manufacturer required components.

437. Journey Lite, as a supplier, acted in an unconscionable manner in failing to warn Plaintiffs that the product was being supplied without all FDA and manufacturer required components.

438. Journey Lite's actions demonstrate they took advantage of the Plaintiff's inability, due to ignorance of the product, to understand the product being implanted without FDA and manufacturer required components.

439. Journey Lite substantially benefited financially by the use of the product as the product allowed for Defendant to charge more for the surgery.

440. Plaintiff suffered economic loss as defined in R.C. § 2303.71(A)(2) and applicable law.

441. Plaintiff suffered mental and physical harm due to Journey Lite's acts and omissions.

442. Plaintiff suffered emotional distress due to acts and omissions of Journey Lite and are entitled to recovery as defined in R.C. § 2307.71(A)(7) and applicable law.

443. Journey Lite violated the Ohio Products Liability Act R.C. § 2307.71-2307.80

444. Journey Lite violated R.C. § 2307.71(A)(6).

445. Journey Lite violated The Ohio Consumer Sales Practices Act R.C. § 1345.02-.03.

446. Journey Lite provided inadequate warnings are defined in R.C. § 2307.76(A) and applicable law.

COUNT VI: SPOILIATION OF EVIDENCE

447. Journey Lite through its agents and employees, willfully altered, destroyed, delayed, hid, modified and/or spoiled ("spoiled") Plaintiff's records, billing records, emails, paperwork and related evidence.

448. Journey Lite through its agents and employees, spoiled evidence with knowledge that there was pending or probable litigation involving Plaintiff.

449. Journey Lite's conduct was designed to disrupt Plaintiff's potential and/or actual case, and did in fact and proximately cause disruption, damages and harm to Plaintiff.

COUNT VII: LOSS OF CONSORTIUM

450. At all times relevant, the Plaintiffs were married.

451. As a result of the wrongful acts and omissions of Dr. Durrani, Plaintiffs were caused to suffer, and will continue to suffer in the future, loss of consortium, loss of society, loss of affection, loss of assistance, and loss of conjugal fellowship, all to the detriment of Plaintiffs' marital relationship.

452. All the aforesaid injuries and damages were caused proximately by the acts and omissions of Dr. Durrani.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

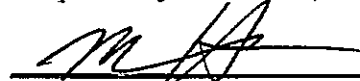
WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs request and seek justice in the form and procedure of a jury, verdict and judgment against Defendants on all claims for the following damages:

1. Past medical bills;
2. Future medical bills;
3. Lost income and benefits;
4. Lost future income and benefits;
5. Loss of ability to earn income;
6. Past pain and suffering;
7. Future pain and suffering;
8. Loss of Consortium;

9. Plaintiffs seek a finding that Plaintiff's injuries are catastrophic under Ohio Rev. Code §2315.18;
10. All damages permitted under Ohio Products Liability Act R.C. §2307.71-2307.80, and all other applicable law;
11. All incidental costs and expenses incurred as a result of Plaintiff's injuries;
12. The damages to Plaintiff's credit as a result of Plaintiff's injuries;
13. Punitive damages;
14. Costs;
15. Attorneys' fees;
16. Interest;
17. All property loss;
18. All other relief to which Plaintiffs are entitled including O.R.C. 1345.01

Based upon 1-18 itemization of damages, the damages sought exceed the minimum jurisdictional amount of this Court and Plaintiff seeks in excess of \$25,000.

Respectfully Submitted,



Matthew Hammer (0092483)

Lindsay Boese (0091307)

Attorneys for Plaintiff

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Independence, KY 41051

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JURY DEMAND

Plaintiffs make a demand for a jury under all claims.



Matthew Hammer (0092483)

Lindsay Boese (0091307)

**PATRICK SCHMIT
AFFIDAVIT OF MERIT
JOURNEY LITE OF CINCINNATI, LLC**

I, Keith D. Wilkey, M.D., after being duly sworn and cautioned states as follows:

1. I devote at least one-half of my professional time to the active clinical practice in my field of licensure, or its instruction in an accredited school. I am an orthopedic surgeon whose focus is on spine surgery and treatment of those with spine issues.
2. I will supplement this affidavit with another, by a letter or by testimony, based upon any information provided to me after I execute it.
3. My curriculum vitae has been previously provided to opposing counsel in these Dr. Durrani cases and can be provided again upon request. For my review, I rely upon my education, training and experience.
4. I have not counted but I have reviewed, over 50 or more cases involving Dr. Durrani and the hospitals where he once had privileges.
5. I base my opinions in part on my review of all the cases I have reviewed which have revealed similar conduct by Dr. Durrani and the hospitals where he had privileges.
6. I am familiar with applicable standard of care for Ohio, Kentucky and the country for an orthopedic/spine surgeon such as Dr. Durrani.
7. I am also familiar with applicable standard of care, policies, rules and regulations, medical executive committee bylaws, JCAHO requirements, credentialing, supervising, retention of medical staff, granting and rejecting privileges and the peer review process for Journey Lite (hereafter JL).
8. I have reviewed all relevant medical records including radiology of Dr. Durrani's medical treatment of Patrick Schmit and the medical treatment of Patrick Schmit at JL.
9. The Center for Advanced Spine Technologies, Inc. was Dr. Durrani's practice group and he was the sole owner, director and officer of CAST as well as an employee. CAST as such is also responsible for Dr. Durrani's negligence and for their failure to also supervise, discipline and retain Dr. Durrani.
10. I have also reviewed the nursing summary prepared by legal counsel's office for Patrick Schmit. Based upon the number of cases I've reviewed pertaining to Dr. Durrani, legal counsel's office knows what materials I need to review and provides me those materials. In addition, while this affidavit contains case specific

information; it also contains information relevant to this case and/or many and/or most and/or all the other cases. It is prepared for me by counsel with my direction and approval like all of these have been.

11. Based upon my review, the following are the **facts** I rely upon:
 - A. MEDICAL HISTORY: chronic back pain many years, hypertension, "stomach ulcer" chronic intermittent back pain many years, improved w/ chiropractic & Ibuprofen.
 - B. Patrick was referred by his PCP, Dr. Emmett Roper, to Dr. Durrani for chronic mid to low back pain which worsened and occurred more frequently in 2010 or 2011. Prior to seeing Dr. Durrani, 07/12/2012, Mr. Schmit had been to a chiropractor (once), neurosurgeons, had taken anti-inflammatories, muscle relaxers, Vicodin, and had injections with temporary improvement. He had not tried physical therapy. Other surgeons did not recommend surgery.
 - C. At the first office visit, Dr. Durrani recommended a lumbar hemilaminectomy, bilateral with discectomy of L5-S1 disc, as well as a bilateral lateral recess decompression at the same level.
 - D. On 08/31/2012, Dr. Durrani performed an L5-S1 hemilaminectomy and foraminotomy.
 - E. Mr. Schmit's pain continues, despite any treatment modalities that he has tried. He has seen other medical professionals, tried PT and injections without improvement.
 - F. Dr. Durrani exaggerated imaging studies in order to justify a need for surgery. He had reassured Mr. Schmit that he could fix him with a new system that very few surgeons had used. He planted false hope, but he did not help Mr. Schmit. In fact, it may have worsened his situation. He began discussing more surgery on his thoracic spine and at the next level above his previous surgery. Fortunately for Mr. Schmit, Dr. Durrani was forced to close his practice before Dr. Durrani could inflict more harm.
 - G. 05/23/2011 Lumbar MRI w/o (Mercy Fairfield), radiologist interpretation: "Disc desiccation at L1-L2 and L5-S1. Left paracentral disc protrusion not having appearance of frank disc herniation L5-S1".
 - H. Dr. Marc Orlando, orthopedic specialist administered three epidural injections which provided very little relief, temporarily.

- I. 01/26/2012: Lumbar MRI w/o (Kettering), radiologist interpretation: "Disc desiccation at L1-L2 and L5-S1. L4-L5: Circumferential disc bulge encroaches on exiting L4 nerve root. L5-S1: Circumferential disc bulge encroaches on descending L5 nerve roots bilaterally. Neuroforamen unremarkable. Mild facet hypertrophy. Minimal discogenic changes throughout lumbar spine."
- J. 01/26/2012: Lumbar x-rays 4-views (Kettering), radiologist interpretation: "Minimal 2mm retrolisthesis L3-4, decreases to normal on flexion. Facet hypertrophy all levels. Mild disc narrowing at L5-S1."
- K. 02/22/2012: Dr. Bernstein said nothing could be done, because nothing showed on imaging that could be repaired, Rx: Meloxicam NSAID for mo.
- L. 06/26/2012, unimproved, referred to Durrani, "who I send all my last resort patients to"
- M. 07/12/2012 INITIAL OFFICE VISIT (CAST) Dr. Durrani stated: "Here for back pain, radicular pain going down both lower extremities, numbness, paresthesias both feet. Has been going on for few years, worse in past two years. MRI shows a lumbar disk herniation at L5-S1 level with a free fragment and significant foraminal stenosis bilaterally at L5-S1, more marked on left. IMPRESSION: Lumbar spinal stenosis L5-S1, due to lumbar disk herniation and bilateral foraminal stenosis. Lumbar radiculopathy in L5 distribution bilaterally. Anterolisthesis, minimal L5 on S1. Decrease in disk height at L5-S1. Central stenosis, L5-S1. Bilateral advanced foraminal stenosis. Failure of conservative treatment for over 2 ½ years, including multiple attempts at lumbar epidural steroids, physical therapy, and injections. PLAN: Do a lumbar hemilaminectomy, bilateral, with discectomy of L5-S1 along with bilateral lateral recess decompression at L5-S1. I explained that after the nerve has been under so much pressure for so long there is absolutely no guarantee as far as recovery of nerve function fully is concerned, especially with paresthesias. He completely understands."
- NOTE: Dr. Durrani's interpretation of the imaging and x-rays was significantly different from the radiologist's impression.
- N. 07/12/12: According to Mr. Schmit: He took his MRI and x-rays which had been taken at Kettering. Dr. Durrani said he needed surgery for a herniated disc, would use IO-Flex, a minimally invasive procedure. Dr. Durrani told him "I can fix you". Explained that "this is a newer procedure that he is one of only a few doctors in US who were trained to use it- he was trained outside the US. He trained other docs outside US to use it. Durrani told them the surgery was quick &

easy way to relieve pain & had patients wake up w/ zero pain. How he had patients who had walked w/ assistive devices for years till he "fixed" them. Left feeling relieved that someone could help him, puzzled why no other physicians would do anything if it was so easy.

- O. 08/31/2012: SURGERY (JOURNEYLITE) DURRANI- was in so much pain postop nurse had to keep calling Durrani for steroid & pain med. CAST P.T. Was told he'd be pain free within a week with PT
- P. 09/13/2012 OFFICE VISIT (CAST) Dr. Durrani stated: "Two weeks postop. Doing absolutely awesome. Completely asymptomatic. Very minimal pain. Hardly taking any pain medication just two weeks from surgery. PLAN: Start P.T."
- Q. 12/13/2012 OFFICE VISIT (CAST) Dr. Durrani stated: "Minimal discomfort in back or leg. His biggest issue is pain in the lower thoracic spine, about the T9-T10, T10-T11 area and radiates along the right chest wall at times. He probably has disk herniation in lower thoracic area."
- R. 12/28/12: Thoracic MRI (Proscan), radiologist interpretation: "Osseous stress injuries bilaterally at T8 and T9, on right at T7, without fractures. Negative for neutrally compressive disc herniation throughout thoracic spine."
- S. 02/14/2013 OFFICE VISIT (CAST) Dr. Durrani stated: "Thoracic MRI shows multiple levels of disk degeneration. He says that the pain gets better with chiropractic adjustment, so for the time being will leave it alone. He is having pain at L3-L4 level, which is higher than where he had decompression. On previous MRI, it was obvious he had another disk herniation at L3-L4
- T. 3/29/13: "P-Stim" Nerve Stimulator Device application (JourneyLite) by Eric Schneeberger, MD - didn't help pain
- U. 04/04/13: Lumbar MRI w/o (Proscan), radiologist interpretation: "Degenerative retrolisthesis L5 on S1. S/p laminectomy without recurrent or residual disc herniation. Shallow pseudodisc of listhesis eccentric to left along with facet arthropathy mildly narrows neural foramina and abuts descending left S1 nerve root. Shallow noncompressive disc displacement L4-L5, L3-L4, L1-L2."
- V. 04/12/2013: 2nd P-Stim" Nerve Stimulator Device application (JourneyLite) by Eric Schneeberger, MD - didn't help pain

W. 06/13/2013 FINAL OFFICE VISIT (CAST) Dr. Durrani stated: "He has noticed recently his radicular symptoms are coming back, and his left leg is more painful and he has started developing paresthesias. MRI of lumbar spine shows disk degeneration at L5-S1 level. Axial images show foraminal stenosis on left and edema in sacral pedicle. Also grade 2 facet arthropathy at L5-S1 facets. DECISION-MAKING: He has sacral pedicle edema at L5-S1 indicating segmental instability. PLAN: Lumbar CT, flexion/extension views of lumbar spine, and diagnostic/therapeutic transforaminal injection bilaterally."

X. 07/10/2013: saw Bernstein again, took imaging

08/08/2013: CT myelogram

08/28/2013: Bernstein, myelogram negative. Felt pain excessive, He had flexion/extension films. Bernstein said he couldn't see anything on imaging

Y. Dr. Durrani recommended surgery on the FIRST office visit. He had seen two other surgeons who told Mr. Schmit that could not find anything on imaging studies that surgery would help.

Z. Dr. Durrani performed one surgery on the client:

08/31/2012 SURGERY (JOURNEYLITE) PROCEDURES:

- L5-S1 hemilaminectomy and foraminotomy

PREOPERATIVE AND POSTOPERATIVE DIAGNOSES:

- Lumbar spinal stenosis, L5-S1, bilaterally
- Lumbar foraminal stenosis L5-S1, bilaterally
- Lumbar radiculopathy, L5 bilaterally

AA. BMP-2 was not used.

BB. 08/31/2012 SURGERY: No implant log provided, but Dr. Durrani's operative note indicated that he used the Baxano system, for which he did not receive special manufacturer's training to use.

CC. 08/31/2012 SURGERY: Unable to verify when dictated. A date and time of 08/31/2012 at 1340 were later added by someone else. NOTE: Two copies of report are included which show the alteration made to record.

DD. There was no failed hardware.

EE. Client has seen subsequent treating doctors:

- Theodore Bernstein, MD, Neurosurgeon- did injections and physical therapy without much improvement

- Cleveland Clinic- appointment pending

FF. Now that the client is finished being treated by Dr. Durrani, they experience:

- Constant pain
- In pain when he tries to do anything around house
- Pain meds make him groggy, only takes once a day

GG. Since surgery, life has changed for the client:

- Lives on farm, raises & trains horses- can't ride any more
- Coached son's sports teams- very miserable 2012
- Had to hire a boy to mow grass
- Previously did home & vehicle maintenance, housework, household chores
- Was very active in sports & coaching, skiing, boating, playing w/ kids daily
- Depressed, irritable
- Comes home & stays in recliner
- Home atmosphere tense- never used to be, he never yelled
- Change work vehicles to accommodate his back pain
- Affects whole family
- Lost hope of ever being able to do things he loved before

12. Based upon my review, the following are my **opinions** based upon a reasonable degree of medical certainty pertaining to the deviation in standard of care or negligence, informed consent, battery and fraud claims against Dr. Durrani and JL which proximately caused harm to Plaintiff:

- A. Unnecessary surgery(s). Number of surgeries ONE, Number unnecessary_____
- B. Need to have additional surgery to repair problems created by Dr. Durrani
- C. Implantation of BMP-2 without informed consent
- D. Failed hardware
- E. Failure to obtain proper informed consent for surgery
- F. Failure to provide adequate and thorough pre-operative and post-operative patient surgical education
- G. Failure to properly post-op monitor the patient
- H. Failure to properly perform follow up, post-op care

- I. Negligent surgical techniques
- J. Failure to maintain accurate and complete surgical records and surgical consent forms
- K. Failure to disclose important health information to patient
- L. Failure to maintain and complete discharge summary
- M. Failure to supervise Dr. Durrani
- N. Negligent pre-surgical diagnosis
- O. Failure to prepare a timely operative report or other medical record
- P. Billing for services not completed
- Q. Not informing the patient another surgeon will be doing all or part of the surgery
- R. Practicing outside Dr. Durrani's scope of training, education, experience, and Board certifications
- S. Deviation in standard of care
- T. Failure to perform thorough and accurate pre-op nonsurgical evaluation
- U. Failure by Dr. Durrani to inform patient of additional/changed procedure and reason
- V. Failure by CAST to disclose additional/changed procedure and reason to patient
- W. Failure by Dr. Durrani at CAST to properly educate patient regarding diagnosis
- X. Prior knowledge of possible complication and not acting properly upon same
- Y. Failure to disclose pertinent health information to another health care provider
- Z. Fraudulent, negligent and reckless pre-operative work up
- AA. Fraudulent, negligent and reckless surgery
- BB. Inaccurate, fraudulent, and/or exaggeration of diagnoses

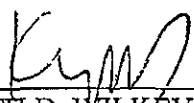
- CC. Failure to properly educate patient regarding diagnoses
 - DD. Failure to attempt non-surgical conservative treatment
 - EE. Failure to perform thorough and accurate pre-op nonsurgical evaluation
 - FF. Failure by Dr. Durrani at JL to perform accurate and complete preoperative teaching
 - GG. Failure by Dr. Durrani at JL to properly educate patient regarding diagnoses
 - HH. Failure by Dr. Durrani at JL to maintain accurate and/or complete medical records
 - II. Failure of informed consent by Dr. Durrani at JL
 - JJ. Failure of JL to insure Dr. Durrani and CAST had obtained proper informed consent
 - KK. Failure of JL to obtain proper acknowledgement of consent
 - LL. Failure by Dr. Durrani at JL to disclose pertinent health information
 - MM. Failure by JL to disclose additional/changed procedure and reason to patient
 - NN. Failure by JL to supervise staff
 - OO. Failure by JL staff to properly document abnormalities and follow up care
 - PP. Non-approved hardware combinations
 - QQ. Dr. Durrani made false and material misrepresentations of material facts intended to mislead Patrick Schmit and concealed material facts he had a duty to disclose. JL and CAST concealed material facts they had a duty to disclose. Patrick Schmit was justified in relying on the misrepresentation and did rely proximately causing harm to Patrick Schmit. Dr. Durrani and JL intentionally misled Patrick Schmit. Patrick Schmit had the right to correct information.
13. Based upon my review of the deposition testimony, the JCAHO requirements, the MEC bylaws and all the information provided to me, I am able to adopt the following opinions relating to JL pertaining to the claims against them. JL's actions and inactions detailed in this affidavit proximately caused harm to Plaintiff. JL are both being referenced when only JL is named. I hold the

following opinions relative to JL pertaining to their conduct acting through their administration and MEC. The time period covered is from the time Dr. Durrani joined JL until he left by August 2013. In addition to my opinions, I set forth facts I rely upon. This includes all which I referenced that I reviewed. In addition to all of the above, I attest to the following:

1. JL's motive for their actions and inactions towards Dr. Durrani was financial gain.
2. The MEC, administration and Boards of JL failed to "govern the affairs of the Medical Staff."
3. The MEC, administration and Boards of JL failed to enforce their rules upon Dr. Durrani as they were required to do.
4. The MEC, administration and Boards of JL failed to provide oversight of Dr. Durrani as they were required to do.
5. The MEC, administration and Boards of JL failed to properly evaluate Dr. Durrani.
6. The Orthopedic and Surgery Departments abdicated their responsibility under the MEC bylaws to review, investigate and supervise Dr. Durrani.
7. The MEC, administration and Boards of JL failed to properly discipline Dr. Durrani including summary suspensions and revocation.
8. The MEC, administration and Boards of JL failed to properly discipline under the MEC bylaws as it pertains to Dr. Durrani.
9. The MEC, administration and Boards of JL ignored the information readily available pertaining to Dr. Durrani before credentialing and granting him privileges.
10. The MEC, administration and Boards of JL failed to act on Dr. Durrani's disruptive behavior, unprofessional behavior and clinical performance placing Plaintiff at risk.
11. The MEC, administration and Boards of JL certified and approved the unnecessary procedures of Dr. Durrani on Plaintiff knowing they were unnecessary and knowingly allowing the improper use of BMP-2 and/or PureGen and knowing there was not proper informed consent.
12. The MEC, administration and Boards of JL failed to act on Dr. Durrani's failure in medical record documentation.

13. The MEC, administration and Boards of JL failed to require Dr. Durrani to follow the rules for off label experimental procedures.
14. The MEC, administration and Boards of JL allowed Dr. Durrani to use undisclosed and unqualified surgeons to perform his surgeries including fellows and interns.
15. The MEC, administration and Boards of JL allowed Dr. Durrani to do multiple surgeries at once.
16. JL have refused to provide as privileged the peer review information from JL for Dr. Durrani to either me or their own expert. Therefore, we have no knowledge of what action, if any, was taken against him. However, based upon the facts here, it is obvious they failed to take action.
17. Based upon all of the above, it's my opinion that JL were negligent in their credentialing, supervising, disciplining and retaining Dr. Durrani on staff and allowing him to obtain and keep privileges at JL under the standards of Ohio and this proximately caused harm to Plaintiff.
18. The facts support Patrick Schmit's claim for negligence, battery, lack of consent and fraud.
19. As a result of the negligence and conduct of Dr. Durrani and JL Patrick Schmit suffered damages proximately caused by them, including the following:
 - A. Permanent disability
 - B. Physical deformity and scars
 - C. Past, Current and Future Physical and Mental Pain and Suffering
 - D. Lost income past, present and future
 - E. Loss of enjoyment of life
 - F. Past medical expenses
 - G. Future medical expenses approximately in the amount of \$50,000 to \$250,000 depending on course of treatment
 - H. Aggravation of a pre-existing condition
 - I. Decreased ability to earn income
 - J. 3% increased risk of cancer and fear of cancer if BMP-2 was used.

AFFIANT SAYETH FURTHER NOT



KEITH D. WILKEY, M.D.

NOTARY

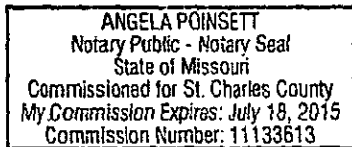
SUBSCRIBED, SWORN TO AND ACKNOWLEDGED before me, a Notary Public, by
Keith D. Wilkey, M.D. on this 12 day of ^{August}~~June~~, 2014.

Angela Kay Poinsett
NOTARY PUBLIC

My Commission Exp.: 07/18/2015

St Charles County

State of Missouri





COMMON PLEAS COURT
HAMILTON COUNTY, OHIO

FILED

2015 NOV 12 A 9:51

Patrick & Shelly Schmit

A 15061

CLERK OF COURTS
HAMILTON COUNTY, OH

CASE NO. _____

VS

WRITTEN REQUEST FOR SERVICE
TYPE OF PAPERS TO BE SERVED ARE

Abubakar Atiq Durrani, MD, et al.

Complaint & AOM

(b) PLEASE CHECK IF THIS IS A
DOMESTIC CASE

PLAINTIFF/DEFENDANT REQUESTS:

EXPRESS MAIL SERVICE _____

CERTIFIED MAIL SERVICE ☒

REGULAR MAIL SERVICE _____

PERSONAL SERVICE _____

RESIDENCE SERVICE _____

PROCESS SERVICE _____

FOREIGN SHERIFF _____

ON Journey Lite of Cincinnati, LLC; Serve: CT Corporation System
1300 East Ninth Street, Cleveland, OH 44114

Matthew J. Hammer

ATTORNEY

5247 Madison Pike Independence, KY 41051

ADDRESS

859-363-1900

PHONE NUMBER

92483

ATTORNEY NUMBER

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
HAMILTON COUNTY, OHIO

REQUEST AND INSTRUCTIONS FOR ORDINARY MAIL SERVICE

FILED

2015 NOV 12 A 9:51

Patrick & Shelly Schmit

Plaintiff

-vs-

INSTRUCTIONS TO THE CLERK

CLERK OF COURTS
HAMILTON COUNTY, OH

CASE NUMBER:

A 1506162

Journey Lite of Cincinnati, LLC

Defendant

IF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY CERTIFIED MAIL IS RETURNED BY THE POSTAL AUTHORITIES WITH AN ENDORSEMENT OF "REFUSED" OR "UNCLAIMED" AND IF THE CERTIFICATE OF MAILING CAN BE DEEMED COMPLETE NOT LESS THAN FIVE (5) DAYS BEFORE ANY SCHEDULED HEARING, THE UNDERSIGNED WAIVES NOTICE OF THE FAILURE OF SERVICE BY THE CLERK AND REQUESTS ORDINARY MAIL SERVICE IN ACCORDANCE WITH CIVIL RULE 4.6 (C) OR (D) AND CIVIL RULE 4.6 (E).

Matthew J. Hammer

ATTORNEY OF RECORD

(TYPE OR PRINT)

\s\Matthew J. Hammer

ATTORNEY'S SIGNATURE

DATE